

Daily Report

East Asia

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NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Japan

Hosokawa Holds New Year's Day News Conference

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[New Year's Day address by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, followed by a question and answer session with unidentified domestic reporters, at the prime minister's official residence on 30 December—recorded]

[Text] [Hosokawa, reading from a prepared text] I wish all of you a happy New Year. On this New Year's Day, I would like to state candidly my thoughts on what Japan should pursue and where it should head to prepare itself for the 21st century. Last year, 1993, was an epochmaking year. It was a year when a political stalemate was broken in the midst of the people's high expectations and the coalition government was inaugurated. It is a historical inevitability to fundamentally rebuild Japan's political, economic, and social systems which have become obsolete into new ones. Therefore, my new government is strongly feeling anew its responsibility to lay a major historical turning point for changes in Japan while regarding the responsibility as a historical mission.

There are various factors dictating the need for Japan to change. I would like to explain those factors, confining them to the following two points. First, Japan is moving toward a society of senior citizens at an unprecedented rate. Looking at the population's composition, Japan is shifting from the most vital age to the most difficult age. Basic ideals, which so far have shored up Japanese society, are being forced to change. For example, Japan should develop new plans of action, after departing from the economic expansion policy that Japan has adopted since the Meiji Era, to catch up with and overtake European nations and the United States. I have often wondered if people around the world really want to live in Japan. To be sure, Japan has many characteristics such as safe living, high income level, and long life expectancy that it can boast to the rest of the world. I am convinced that Japan can build itself into a proud society by taking the initiative in pushing for reforms even if it may bring some suffering to the people. I would like to make three specific proposals to prepare Japan for the 21st century. First, I would like to mention the building of a society where senior citizens can lead their lives full of vitality. The senior citizens of the 21st century are a generation consisting of people like me. We will have to feel that we can work and contribute to society as long as our health permits us to, as Japan moves toward the world's top life expectancy society. It is necessary to work on building a society to fulfill such a need. I believe that it is important to build a society where 65-year-old people can work. I intend to help senior citizens continue to work by creating a new employment insurance. I will strive to build a society where 65-year-olds can work by revamping the current pension system and providing social insurance to part-time workers. At the same time,

I will strive to create a climate where women can work easily, establish a new child-care leave payment system, and improve the facilities of child-care centers in an effort to help raise our children to bear Japan's future. What concerns senior citizens the most is home care service, and the costs of such service. I intend to work vigorously on improving home-care service after reviewing the current 10-year strategy, the so-called Golden Plan, for the insurance of senior citizens. I also intend to review the current medical insurance system and vigorously promote a new nurse-service system which does not require patient's family members to take care of him while in the hospital. From the standpoint of improving the current medical system and Japan's international contributions to the medical arena, I am thinking of shaping a new 10-year strategy to combat such intractable diseases as cancer. I believe that if we vigorously come to grips with building a society of senior citizens, the society will become vital and bright. In line with the ideas I put forth just a while ago, I am thinking of shaping a comprehensive welfare vision for the society of senior citizens. Second, I would like to mention the building of a living infrastructure which is of affluence and high quality.

Looking at our daily lives, people residing in local areas complain that they have fewer job opportunities than those residing in urban areas and they feel that the cultural and educational level in their local areas is low. Many urban residents complain that they do not feel comfortable with their lives, citing housing problems and commuting hell. I believe that it is essential to gradually turn all of those areas into attractive areas for the people. To that end, I intend to formulate a guideline for decentralization within this year and push for the administrative reform of local governments with legislation on decentralization in mind. At the same time, I also intend to vigorously seek to upgrade the infrastructure while giving priority to creating a living environment that is compatible with the actual situation of localities. For example, only 10 percent of cities, towns, and villages with less than 50,000 residents now enjoy a sewage system. The present situation is that more than half of the people live without a sewage system. I intend to help more than 90 percent of the people gain access to a sewage system. I plan to examine the possibility of raising the paved road rate in rural villages to that in medium cities. Building an efficient high-speed traffic network, which links major local cities with each other by highway, rail, and air, is essential to turning our nation into a multipolar and diversified land. For example, I intend to enable 98 percent of the population to arrive in interchanges within one hour by extending the current 6,000 km of the superhighway network to 14,000 km by the early 21st century.

Next, I would like to propose the Housing 21 Plan designed to have all the people live in a comfortable housing climate in the 21st century. The plan calls for widening the per capita living space 30 percent and I intend to work to make it possible for every person to

enjoy 40 square meters of living space. I also plan to promote the construction of housing in concert with the construction of towns. To that end, I intend to boldly reform the housing industry, promote competition among housing builders, and largely cut the high costs of housing construction with the goal of making it possible for the people to build their own houses with one-third the money they have spent in the past. The effective use of land is a major policy task. From the standpoint of effectively using land, I will aggressively study the possibility of relaxing regulations concerning land use. In addition, I plan to make towns beautiful by drawing up a greenery plan to increase the acreage of greenery in urban areas by three times. In a bid to relax urban traffic gridlock. I will aim for comfortable commuting in urban areas by improving the rail service and constructing quadruple-track rail lines [double tracks going in each direction] in urban areas. In this way, I intend to upgrade the people's living infrastructure.

Third, I would like to mention the building of a comprehensive and characteristic society. When I think of the future world, I believe that the full growth of diversified characters will give rise to unique cultures and economic activities which will in return become a source of new vitality. This is an important element for Japan to act as a responsible member of the international community and contribute to the community. From that point of view, I believe that my government should strive to promote research in high-technology, in which Japan is said to lag behind other nations. I think that to that end, it is necessary to promote basic research in the areas of space, life, material, and energy. I intend to give budgetary priority to important research and development programs to prepare Japan for the 21st century, while seeking to consolidate the infrastructure to train outstanding researchers and upgrading research facilities. Regarding the promotion of culture and arts, I plan to foster young artists who will bear the future of Japan's arts, increase subsidies to unique local cultural activities and build a society where culture prospers. At the same time, it is important to create a climate wherein Japan can freely talk with other nations and they can understand each other's diversity. From that point, I plan to promote truly meaningful international exchanges under which Japan accepts 100,000 foreign students for study here.

Next, there is the information industry which may be a typical example of an economic area filled with creativity. Thanks to fast progress in information communication technology, it will become possible early in the 21st century for people to watch programs all over the world at any time and to even receive medical and administrative services at home.

It will become necessary to push for overall deregulation of the communications sector to enable accelerated improvement of existing networks and the launching of new projects by private businesses. But it is never easy to realize such an invigorating and abundant society. It takes so many financial resources to implement social security programs and to improve social overhead capital, while aiming to create a creativity-filled society. No doubt, necessary costs and responsibilities should be shared among us in a fair and appropriate manner. Without that, it will be impossible to realize the society we seek to be in by the 21st century.

To ensure that society does not lose its vitality from high tax burdens, we are resolved to contain the people's burdens to below 50 percent, even at the aging population's peak time in the 21st century. We must think hard and come up with the best possible ideas.

We must implement administrative reform, with an emphasis on deregulation, as well as fundamental revision of government expenditures. My government should boldly relax regulations which will generate the maximum effect—in areas closely tied to people's lives like distribution, housing and land, new types of businesses like information communications and industries which will contribute to expanding employment.

Even when these efforts are made, however, I think that if an abundant and invigorating society is to be realized in the 21st century, some increases in individuals' tax burdens will be unavoidable. Right now, one senior citizen is supported by five working citizens, but when our aging society peaks, one senior citizen will be supported by only two working citizens.

Simply put, the burdens will more than double. No doubt, we must also think about increased social security insurance premiums with a further aging population and increased tax burdens to improve social overhead capital. If we look at the existing tax system from such a viewpoint, because the weight of individual income tax in the tax system is so large, so much of the burdens need to be borne by the generation of working people. If the present condition is allowed to continue, it will excessively task the generation supporting the aging society. If the willingness of the working generation and the vigor of the society as a whole are to be fully maintained, it will become necessary to reconsider the burdens of the people and to bring a tax system which ensures a balance between income, consumption, and assets.

As such, I have come to think the best choice given to us is to push for a tax system reform with a national consensus—along the lines of the tax reform policy recommended by the Tax Commission which is aimed at realizing a fair and invigorating society of the aged population. I would like to have the nation's understanding on this.

Lastly, I would like to speak about international affairs. Japan's prosperity is only possible if the world's free trade system is maintained. I believe that the recent conclusion of the Uruguay Round is truly significant. It is a matter of course for my government to give full consideration to the impact of the Round's conclusion. In particular, my government will take measures to enable farmers to engage in farming free of concerns. I believe the government must take measures to ensure the

future of the farmers and thus prevent the nation's food self-sufficiency rate from further dropping.

Listening to voices from other nations, Japan is still closed. Japan's savings are too high while its investments are too small. Japan is criticized for that. Needless to say, some of such criticism is based on misunderstanding, but we have to vigorously improve what needs to be improved. The aggressive upgrading of the current infrastructure to prepare for a society of senior citizens is not for the sake of other nations, but for the sake of ourselves. To do that, we need to secure revenue resources which will not leave excessive burdens to the future generation. Once that is done, I think we will have to review the basic plan on public works investments including possible revisions and increases of the investment allocations.

I am convinced that we will be able to build Japan's economic society into one that is open to other nations through the course of implementing those policies.

Of course, the economic and social reforms being proposed here are not something that can be done by the government alone. And all reforms accompany pains. Besides, the choices we can take are very limited. I hope we will be able to challenge difficulties with the cooperation of the people, and build an age which is full of ideals of hopes—by sharing pains among all of us.

With the so-called economic bubble having gone and with inventories having undergone readjustments, this is the year when the economy should recover in full scale. I am confident that we will have a good economic new year if we move toward the vision presented today, while doing the best in overcoming the immediate issues of the economy. I pray that this year may be a fruitful year for all of you, the people of the nation. Thank you.

[Reporter] Then, we would like to begin asking questions. First, Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to ask this question in connection with the vision you talked about just now. Talking about the tax system reform, you have said that the reform would not mean simply raising or lowering tax rates, and that you would present a vision. So, I assume the vision you mentioned today is the vision you have said was forthcoming. Bluntly put, can I say that you are asking the people to understand that an increase in the consumption tax is unavoidable?

[Hosokawa] No, I did not mean to refer to the consumption tax rate issue. The vision for the 21st century is, as the words say, the vision for the 21st century. I presented a long-term view on what the future economic society should look like. With the aging population, an increase in [tax] burdens is unavoidable. If we choose to avoid increasing burdens, then we will have no choice but to reduce social security benefits.

On the other hand, if we choose to rely on debts, while that may be all right with the people of our generation, it will result in leaving many burdens to our children and grandchildren. If the working generation bears excessive burdens with the population aging proceeding, there will arise the question of whether society's vitality can be maintained or the question of whether the working generation will not lose their will to work—despite that. When we think about this point, it becomes clear we have to consider—as pointed out in the Tax Commission's recommendation and the Hiraiwa Commission's report—about the relationship between the interests and burdens of the people and about the tax system which can ensure balance between income, assets, and consumption.

As such, I presented in the vision my view on how the people's interests and benefits should be balanced.

[Reporter] I would like to ask once again. Today, you said you will push for an overall tax system reform based on the national consensus. Could you have used that expression with the reduction of income tax and the increase of consumption tax—in the future—in mind?

[Hosokawa] I may be repeating what I said just now. With the aging society arriving, an increase in burdens will be unavoidable. I think it will be irresponsible to avoid bearing the increased burdens. The consultative committee of the government and ruling parties is now discussing what specifically we should do—from a broad perspective, in consideration of the Tax Commission's recommendation. By the time the 1994 budget is formulated in mid- or late-January, the committee will come up with a conclusion. The government will make a decision after seeing the committee's conclusion.

[Reporter] You did not make yourself clear on the question of the consumption tax increase. But according to the vision you presented, you want to go for an overall tax system reform based on the Tax Commission's recommendation. I think it is clear what you wanted to say really was that there is no choice but to raise the consumption tax rate in the future. The reason you cannot speak clearly about it is because the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ] is strongly opposed to it. I would like to ask if you can convince the SDPJ?

[Hosokawa] That is a tough question. I think there are several prerequisites for promoting a comprehensive tax system reform. For example, we must rationalize expenditures and correct unfair practices in taxation. Among these prerequisites, a drastic review of the balance between direct and indirect taxes is one of the biggest issues related to the nation's comprehensive tax reform. Regarding the government's conclusion on the issue, however, I must repeat that is still under debate among the coalition parties. The consultative committee composed of all parties is discussing the matter. Since the burdens are unavoidable, I think the committee will come to some sort of conclusion.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, it seemed your statement today focused on mid- and long-term government tasks; however, in your New Year's statement, I think the public wanted to hear your stance toward emergency pump-priming measures. What is your actual plan for the new pump-priming package?

[Hosokawa] With respect to economic measures, the government has already hammered out several pump-priming packages. And, through the third supplementary budget for fiscal 1993 and the initial budget for fiscal 1994, we are going to implement ceaseless economic stimulus measures to cover the coming 15 months. Our budget formulation work gives much consideration to stimulation of the economy, and it will certainly brighten the Japanese economy's future. By the time the [1994] budget is formulated, economic measures will become fixed, and I certainly hope the measures will meet the people's expectations.

[Reporter] In connection with the previous question on the people's greatest concern, could you tell me the size of the income tax reduction and its revenue resources?

[Hosokawa] I cannot give an answer to that at this point. The government and the ruling parties are discussing the matter now. I think a conclusion will shape up by the middle of January.

[Reporter] You have just stated that the government will take actions to secure employment of workers over 65 years old as a mid- to long-term task. However, the unemployment rate is gradually picking up nationwide, and the number of jobless is increasing in the business sector. In this regard, how much do you estimate the nation's unemployment and economic growth rates in 1994 will be?

[Hosokawa] The government is scheduled to announce its economic forecast in mid-January in definite figures. Concerning employment-securing measures, I have repeatedly said in Diet interpellations that the government is trying its best to draw up measures for securing employment at the Labor Ministry's initiative. In fact, employment conditions are becoming serious in the nation, and I am really concerned about the present circumstances. As I noted in my New Year's statement and a previous news conference, the government intends to deal with employment-related issues with every possible measure. I am serving as the chairman of the government's employment policy headquarters to fully engage in the task.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, my question is again about the government's tax reduction plan. Chairman Hiroshi Kato, of the advisory Tax System Research Council, met with you yesterday, and insisted that the government should promise a future increase of the consumption tax if the income tax is implemented this fiscal year. In other words, he said a bill for income tax cuts should include a pledge on a future increase of the consumption tax rate. While you take a stance to attach importance to tax panel policies, are you really going to enact the income tax cut and the consumption tax hike at the same time?

[Hosokawa] As a matter of course, we have to attach much importance to the tax panel's opinions; but the government's attitude toward the panel's advisory report is also under debate at the consultative committee organized by the coalition parties. The committee will determine the coalition's tax reform policy hopefully in consideration of the tax panel's advisory report.

[Reporter] In the statement's conclusion, you said the business climate will improve this year after the stock adjustment phase. When we assess if the stock adjustment phase is well under way, we must pay attention to the fact that financial institutes' bad loans are one of the main reasons for the prolonged recession. This is a significant difference from the preceding recessions. So, some people are questioning if the government has the proper remedy for the stagnant economy. They say the government must have drastic and unusual remedies, such as large-scale public investments and income tax cuts with the issuance of deficit-covering bonds. What is your attitude toward such an opinion?

[Hosokawa] I have repeatedly noted that we must be very careful of thoughtless dependence on deficit-covering bonds. On the other hand, the government is seriously seeking measures to encourage transactions of real estate. While we have no definite plans right now, we are trying very hard to seize some good ideas.

[Reporter] Again on the consumption tax. Mr. Prime Minister, it seems you intend to wait for the coalition parties' discussions to end, but you will have to make your own decision sooner or later. Do you have the resolve to demonstrate your leadership to make a future-oriented decision on tax revenues?

[Hosokawa] I am very sorry, but I cannot answer that question at this point. Taking into account a conclusion drawn by the coalition parties, I would like to make a proper decision for the future.

[Reporter] To cope with the aging society, you have clarified your stance to ask heavier burdens of the public. To improve services for the aged, it is necessary to reinforce manpower to work on this field. On the other hand, the government is expected to have more manpower through deregulation policies. Do you intend to minimize the public's burdens by utilizing the surplus manpower to overcome bureaucratic sectionalism?

[Hosokawa] That is an interesting idea but I have no definite plan yet.

[Reporter] Your statement includes guidelines on various issues; however, it may be difficult to carry them out under bureaucratic sectionalism. While the statement advocates administrative reform, how will you draw up definite measures?

[Hosokawa] As a matter of course, individual ministries and agencies are primarily in charge, and outlines of reform plans are introduced to the coalition parties' leaders. They will thoroughly discuss administrative reform, and its details will be materialized in the 1994 budget and other government policies. Of course, proposals in my statement are based on ministries' policies, such as economic programs, the five-year plan for improving social infrastructures, and the national development plan. Also, the Hiraiwa Commission and the tax panel gave me lots of suggestions. My statement was made in accord with all of these. I am just explaining such proposals in my own words; they may look more drastic, though. I will request the ministries draw up tangible measures for carrying out administrative reform based on my principles.

[Reporter] Please let me ask again on this point. Since the Finance Ministry and the SDPJ are not in accord on the treatment of the consumption tax, your leadership as prime minister is likely to be strongly expected on this issue. Could you explain your resolve again?

[Hosokawa] Needless to say, I have to make final decisions, regardless of whether it is a matter of rice or something else. Anyhow, it is an important issue. We have to find a desirable balance between receiving benefits and sharing burdens. Anyhow, as I have said earlier, our society is aging and it is unavoidable that the working people's burden will grow heavier. Under such a circumstance, some people may say that they do not want to shoulder the burden. Others may say that they do not want to see a further decline in social security services. What kind of decision are the people going to support? Are they going to say that it is important not to lower the standard of the social security services, even at the cost of bearing some burdens? Are they going to say that they will accept lowering the standard of income security [shotoku hosho] because they do not want to shoulder the burdens? Or, are they going to accept a significant increase in the burden on people in the prime of their working lives or the loss of this vital power of society? Anyhow, we have to make our decision on the choices we have. Of course, it is very difficult to have everybody's consensus. However, the ruling parties are studying these matters to make their decision, which will be accepted by as many people as possible. They will be able to show the people several choices. After going through these processes, I will have to make my final decision.

[Reporter] Let me ask you a question regarding a final decision you have just mentioned. You said earlier that the ruling parties, which are currently studying the issue, will make their decision around mid-January. Are you going to make your final decision before the end of January even if they fail to reach an agreement by mid-January?

[Hosokawa] They have to make a decision. I want them to do their best to come up with some kind of decision by all means.

[Reporter] I am going to ask you about the political reform bills. Discussions in the House of Councillors are

virtually at a standstill. How are you going to display your leadership to find a way out of this situation?

[Hosokawa] Frankly speaking, I would like them to start discussions immediately. Anyway, more than 40 days have passed since the bills were sent to the House of Councillors. Well, we had to deal with the supplementary budget proposals and other things, such as the Uruguay Round, during this time. Accordingly, discussions at the House of Representatives did not go smoothly. I understand this very well. However, we still have a considerable number of days left for discussions after New Year's Day. Therefore, I do want to pass the political reform bills during the current Diet session; in the past five years, we have vainly tried to approve political reform bills. I will do my best to promote Diet deliberations on the bills. A fundamental way is to have detailed discussions in the Diet on the bills in the presence of both ruling and opposition parties. If an agreement can be reached at Diet discussions, the government, of course, is ready to respect it.

[Reporter] Are you not planning to make a compromise by making major changes to the bills?

[Hosokawa] Well, the answer to your question may be a repetition of what I have said earlier. However, I am of the opinion that the fundamental approach is to have discussions between the ruling and opposition parties to reach an agreement.

[Reporter] Regarding the political reform bills, it seems that some people are again saying that an election system reform should be treated apart from the prevention of political corruption. What is your opinion on this?

[Hosokawa] As I repeatedly said during the Diet meetings, these issues are like front and rear wheels of a car. We have to change the current medium-sized constituency system, in which members of the same parties fight with each other during elections. I do not think the bill on preventing political corruption alone will improve politics. I think simultaneous approval of the four bills is necessary by all means to realize political reform.

[Reporter] Some members of the ruling parties are also talking about the possibility of dissolving the lower house. What do you think of dissolving the lower house amid the depression?

[Hosokawa] I have no such plan.

[Reporter] Let me go back to the economic issue. [words indistinct] Do you think that ruling parties will hold joint meetings in January to talk about short- and medium-term comprehensive matters—not only emergency economic measures—while keeping an eye on the 21st century in particular?

[Hosokawa] We have to form a draft budget for the next fiscal year while keeping an eye on long-term matters.

[Reporter] You said earlier that you were not thinking about dissolving the lower house. In a recent news

conference, you said that you were prepared for the worst. What are you going to do if the reform bills are not approved?

[Hosokawa] I cannot disclose what I am planning to do. There are many things that I am thinking about.

[Reporters] You have canceled your planned trip to Europe. Japan-U.S. summit talks will be held in February. Can you give us an outline of your diplomatic schedule for this year?

[Hosokawa] Japan-U.S. summit talks will be held in February. Dealing with the Japan-U.S. comprehensive economic consultations is a very difficult task. We are now doing our best to deal with the negotiations, which are very difficult. As a major topic, the results of the consultations will probably be confirmed at the upcoming Japan-U.S. summit talks. Other than that, I have no urgent diplomatic plan for the time being. Of course, summits [of the Group of Seven developed countries] will be held in July. However, I have no concrete diplomatic plans for the period between now and July.

[Reporter] Reportedly, you were invited to visit China. Are you planning to visit China?

[Hosokawa] I have received an invitation from China and from some European countries. But, I have not decided yet on a concrete schedule.

[Reporter] I will ask you questions about a totally different matter. It is regarding 100 million yen you borrowed from the Sagawa group. The opposition parties are determined to ask you questions on this matter at the Diet meetings right after New Year's Day. Do you think that the document, which you submitted earlier to both lower and upper houses, is enough to explain the situation? Also, are you not planning to correct what was written in the document?

[Hosokawa] I am earnestly trying to see if I can submit something additional. At this moment, I cannot say for sure whether or not I will be able to submit anything else. However, I believe that the document I submitted earlier dispelled the doubt that I did not pay back the money. However, I heard some people are still suspicious. Therefore, I am trying to see if I can submit additional documents.

[Reporter] In addition to a doubt regarding whether or not you have paid back the money, some people suspect that the money was used toward expenses for your gubernatorial election. They suspect that the money was not used in the way you have explained. Can you comment on this?

[Hosokawa] As I repeatedly explained at the Diet, I did not borrow the money to use for political purposes.

[Reporter] I would like to ask you again a question regarding the consumption tax. It sounded to me as if you were saying at the beginning of your speech that you

I think what you said was not very clear to the people either. You have been saying that you had entrusted the ruling parties with studying the consumption tax issue. Do you not think that the people would have a clear understanding if you explained to them that the government has no choice but to increase the consumption tax sooner or later?

[Hosokawa] I understand what you mean. But, it will be like putting the cart before the horse if I explained my ideas and showed a certain direction before the ruling parties come up with their proposals. In their meetings, the ruling parties are studying various choices the people can make. I am of the opinion that I should make my final decision after the ruling parties come up with their proposals.

[Reporter] Concerning an income tax cut, you repeatedly said since last autumn that you want to wait for discussions on the issue and a report to be worked out by the Tax Reform Council. But all of a sudden, in December, you expressed a plan to set up the ruling parties' Economic Affairs Consultation Council to ask the council to discuss the income tax cut issue. In this connection, however, Manae Kubota, director general of the Economic Planning Agency, said in a news conference that a political decision should be made on this issue. There is a voice among the people that you lack leadership and that the government has missed the timing of carrying out the income tax cut. How do you answer this view?

[Hosokawa] Well, I fully understand that the people greatly expect the government to carry out the income tax cut. But as I have repeatedly mentioned earlier, if we carry out the income tax cut without securing the revenue sources, the next generations will have to pay for it, and I do not think this is desirable. For that reason, my view is that we need to seriously study this issue. I know that the situation will be more serious if we miss the opportunity. With this in mind, I think it is necessary to promote discussions on this issue while seeking the ruling parties' understanding.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, you have constantly said that the excessive issuance of deficit-covering bonds is undesirable. It is probably ideal for the government to include both the tax cut and tax hike in the government's draft bill on tax reform. But assuming that the government fails to include the tax cut and hike in its bill but instead reaches an agreement with the ruling coalition to issue short-term bonds to make up for a loss caused by the tax cut, do you think the issuance of deficit-covering bonds under the agreement among the ruling parties is still undesirable?

[Hosokawa] I am asking the ruling coalition to strain their wits to study this issue including the possible issuance of short-term deficit-covering bonds, and I also hope that they will come up with some ideas.

[Reporter] I think you probably have difficulties in adjusting policies with the ruling parties and ministries

or agencies concerned, but I think that not only the reporters here but also the people feel that your political stance is changing now from your original position wherein you said that you would show your policies to the people in a straightforward manner. I think this is why the people think you lack leadership in solving issues, including the issue of cutting taxes and raising the consumption tax. How do you consider your current position?

[Hosokawa] I know what you are saying. But I am required to manage the government in the unprecedented political situation wherein the eight parties form a coalition. On the rice issue, I gave my utmost to the very limit to obtain consensus from members of the ruling parties to prevent Japan from being isolated from the international community. From my office, I repeatedly called GATT Director General Sutherland and asked him to wait for another one or two hours while waiting for an agreement among the ruling parties. So, eventually, as you know, I made a decision on the partial opening of the rice market. If I should make any decision without discussions among the ruling parties, the coalition government composed of the eight parties would collapse. I do not think it is desirable to break the coalition government. I fully understand that the people are eager to see my early decisionmaking. In the past, the cabinet was allowed to solve issues one by one. However, many issues are simultaneously falling upon the current coalition government. I think that even when it was the one-party rule by the Liberal Democratic Party, there must have been sharp debates within the party on such difficult issues. But now, exchange of sharp debates within the government is inevitable because the coalition government is formed by eight parties. Given such a situation, what I can do is to promote discussions among the ruling parties to reflect the people's expectations in the government's policy as much as possible and then make a decision while seeking possible compromise among the ruling parties. So, this is what I want the people to understand.

[Reporter] There is the view that the Hosokawa government is attaching importance only to domestic issues and ignoring its relations with the United States. What do you think of this?

[Hosok wa] As I said earlier, Japan and the United States are facing very difficult economic issues. However, I think that through the previous two meetings, the President and I have further deepened our understanding that the basic relations between Japan and the United States have been playing a great role in the world and the international community.

The issues concerning the Japan-U.S. economic framework talks need to be immediately solved. For example, priority is given to such microeconomics issues as autos and auto parts, government procurement, insurance, and ways to beef up the U.S. companies' competitive power. The Japanese Government is facing too many difficult issues. But aside from these issues, the government is making efforts to provide good results regarding the important issues between Japan and the United States by the time a summit is held in February. Although the issues may not be solved perfectly, I think we have to come to some conclusions which both Japan and the United States can accept. President Clinton and I also have fully confirmed it is significant and important to deepen firm bilateral relations in the international community and accomplish global cooperation in solving such issues as environmental protection and measures to cope with the growing world population and AIDS other than the immediate microeconomics issues. And I understand that our views remain unchanged.

[Dean of the press corps] Time has come now to close the prime minister's New Year news conference. Thank you very much.

Heads of Ruling Parties Interviewed 1 Jan OW0301082694

[Editorial report] Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese at 2310 GMT on 1 January 94, in its "New Year Interview Program With Heads of Ruling Parties," carries a 108-minute series of recorded interviews with heads of ruling coalition parties-Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ]; Tsutomu Hata, representative of Shinseito [the Japan Renewal Party]; Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the Komeito; Keigo Ouchi, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party [DSP]; Masayoshi Takemura, representative of Sakigake [the Harbinger Party]; Satsuki Eda, representative of the United Socialist Party [USP] and Yasumatsu Hoshikawa, representative of the Democratic Reform Coalition—by NHK commentator Takashi Yamamoto and NHK announcer Atsuko Yamada at NHK's Tokyo studio.

At 2311 GMT, Yamamoto begins an interview with Murayama by asking the latter about policy differences between the SDPJ, the Komeito and Shinseito. In response, Murayama says: "As I always said, political parties which have policy conflicts and different political beliefs form a coalition government to cooperate with each other in the search for a policy consensus, and this is the character of a coalition government. It is a matter of course that coalition partners have differing policy views." Stressing the importance of intracoalition debate to narrow the policy differences, Murayama says, "Viewing the debate as a confrontation misses the point." Murayama also says, "I think the intracoalition debate will consolidate the foundation of the coalition government." Discussing policy conflicts among the coalition partners, Murayama denies the existence of differences among the coalition partners over a package of political reform bills under deliberation in the lower house, saying "The coalition partners have already agreed on the package." Murayama also adds the coalition partners will coordinate their views if there are any differences among them on revising the bills.

Asked by Yamada about the SDPJ's position in the coalition government, Murayama stresses the need to stabilize the foundation of the coalition government and says: "The passage of the political reform bills holds the ke; to stabilizing the coalition government, and it is important for the coalition government to seek bold policies on the basis of that stabilization." Murayama also adds "the SDPJ should take the responsibility for bolstering the coalition government." Asked by Yamamoto if the SDPJ has displayed no significant leadership in the coalition government, Murayama says: "I believe that since the coalition partners have different political beliefs, what the SDPJ advocates is hard for the rest of the coalition partners to accept." Asked by Yamamoto about the possibility of the SDPJ backing out of the coalition government, Murayama says: "Popular consensus shaped in the July general elections is that 38 years of politics by the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] should be ended, and the consensus has developed into a major trend among the people. The SDPJ joined the coalition government out of its need to respond to the high public expectations for an end to LDP politics. Since the SDPJ joined the coalition government, it should play a role in changing Japan's politics and fulfilling the people's high expectations."

Asked by Yamada about political reform, Murayama notes the delay in the deliberations of the package of political reform bills in the upper house and says: "My view is that since both ruling and opposition parties have pledged to push for political reform, the package of political reform bills will be passed in the upper house. The passage of the bills in the upper house will stabilize the political situation and consolidate the foundation of the coalition government, enabling the government to push ahead with bold policies."

Asked by Yamamoto about the possibility of dissolving the lower house, Murayama says, "I believe that if the political reform bills are not passed or are killed in the Diet, the Hosokawa Cabinet would be held responsible. As I said earlier, the lower house must not be dissolved at a time when Japan is gripped with a serious recession. If the Hosokawa cabinet is held politically responsible for failing to pass the political reform bills in the Diet, there would be no alternative but to dissolve the lower house, but this is a matter to be decided by the prime minister. I think the dissolution of the lower house should be averted at all cost."

Asked by Yamada why the SDPJ is opposed to raising the consumption tax, Murayama says, "I am against any argument for raising the consumption tax to make up for a fiscal revenue shortfall resulting from cuts in the income tax because this new taxation arrangement will hit wage earners," adding that the government should issue bonds to make up for the fiscal revenue shortfall instead.

Discussing the issue of cutting the income tax and raising the consumption tax, Murayama says, "If the income tax is cut and the consumption tax is raised at the same time, this would fuel a sense of unfairness among the people and would not serve to stimulate the economy."

Discussing a realignment of established political parties, Murayama says: "There is talk that the established political parties should be realigned into two conservative parties. I think the talk is out of the question. The realignment of established political parties into two conservative political parties runs counter to democracy. I am in favor of the moderate multiparty system Prime Minister Hosokawa has broached. I believe the multiparty system is inevitable. The time has passed when a single party will continue to stay in power. The time has come when multiple parties form a coalition government. The SDPJ intends to play its part in the multiparty system as a party that upholds the social democracy. The SDPJ also intends to work hard to maintain its influence as a political organization while shoring up the coalition government." Murayama goes on to say that the SDPJ will seek to rally liberal forces.

Asked by Yamamoto about the possibility of the SDPJ's seeking an alliance with the LDP, Murayama says the LDP should transform itself into a more liberal party and adds, "We will seek an alliance with liberal members of the LDP." Asked by Yamamoto about the possibility of a split in the SDPJ, Murayama says, "There are various groups in the SDPJ and they should not take any actions that lead to a party split." Yamamoto and Yamada end the interview with Murayama at 2334 GMT after thanking him.

At 2335 GMT, Yamamoto begins an interview with Shinseito's Hata and points out that the ruling parties and the government are not in step. In response, Hata says: "There have been turns and twists. A ruling party agonized a lot when it decided to accept the GATT compromise proposal calling for a partial opening of the Japanese market. The ruling party made the decision based on the conclusion that it is necessary to make the Uruguay Round a success to defend free trade. I do not care at all about the existence of the turns and twists."

Asked by Yamamoto if the coalition partners will run into difficulty coordinating their views with the SDPJ in the future, Hata says: "The SDPJ had continued to exist as a main opposition party while upholding its own ideology. Whenever I have met with members of the SDPJ, however, I have found them changed a lot since the end of the Cold War. They have become broadminded. I have continued to discuss political reform and other issues with them. I have felt little difference between me and them when we have discussed the future of Japan."

Asked by Yamamoto about the possibility of Komeito's and Shinseito's forming a new party. Hata says, "It would be good if the Komeito and Shinseito, and many other parties discuss ways to form a new party." Asked by Yamada if he still sticks to his plan for two political forces, Hata says: "I have stuck to the plan for seven or eight years since I was with the LDP. I think that as the

current electoral system changes, a situation will be created wherein two major political forces are formed." Asked by Yamamoto what he means by the two political forces, Hata says, "I think that the term conservative or reformist is obsolete." Asked by Yamada if he envisions a split in the LDP in the course of rallying the two political forces, Hata says: "Yes, the LDP has already begun to fall apart. I believe that there is a possibility that the LDP will split when the established political parties are realigned." Yamamoto asks about a possible alliance between Shinseito and the current LDP. In response, Hata says his party is not thinking of forming any alliance with the LDP at present. Yamamoto also asks when the second stage for the realignment of the political parties will begin. In reply, Hata says: "I think it is certain that a movement will gain momentum to that end if the new electoral system is introduced."

In that context, Yamamoto asks if there is a possibility that the ruling partners will try to revise the political reform bills in a bid to compromise with the LDP. Hata says: "As I said earlier, the Diet is a venue for debate, and the political reform bills in question are designed to establish the foundation for democracy. It is not desirable for the coalition government to insist on keeping the bills intact. But if both ruling and opposition parties engage in genuine discussions, it would be possible to come to some conclusions. So, if all the parties give up pursuing their own party interests or individual interests, I think it is possible to find a way for discussions." He then discusses the significance of carrying out political reform. Yamamoto then asks if Prime Minister Hosokawa should take responsibility if the political reform is not carried out. Hata answers "I wonder if we are qualified to hold Prime Minister Hosokawa responsible. The people would call on each of Diet member to take responsibility instead," saying: "Prime Minister Hosokawa is seriously coming to grips with political reform." He then says if he fails to carry out the political reform, the responsibility rests with the opposition parties and some of the coalition partners.

Asked by Yamamoto about the possibility of dissolving the House of Representatives, Hata says the dissolution of the House of Representatives could be one path, but he adds: "Now the government faces economic issues and many other problems to be resolved immediately. Therefore, we cannot dissolve the House of Representatives."

Asked by Yamada if the government's economic affairs consultation council chaired by Hata will come up with concrete measures to stimulate the economy, Hata says in-depth discussions will be held to work out concrete stimulus measures. On the issue of raising the consumption tax to make up for a fiscal revenue shortfall resulting from cuts in the income tax cut, Hata says it is difficult to raise the consumption tax simultaneously with the income tax cut and notes the immediate issuance of deficit-covering bonds is also difficult.

Asked by Yamamoto when the budget for fiscal 1994 will be compiled, Hata indicates the hope that debate on a budget bill will begin in early February, stressing significance of the budget. The interview with Hata ends at 0000 GMT.

At 0001 GMT, Yamamoto begins an interview with Komeito's Ishida. Yamamoto first asks if the political reform bills can be passed in the House of Councillors during the current Diet session. Ishida says: "The deliberation of the political reform bills will resume in the House of Councillors on 4 and 5 January. But I think the situation is still grim. When I come to think about it, we have spent five years dealing with this issue. Since the political reform bills were adopted at the House of Representatives at the end of the debate, I strongly hope that the coalition partners will draw a lesson while seeking cooperation from the opposition parties." Asked by Yamada to what extent the coalition partners can compromise with the opposition parties, Ishida says: "Taking into consideration the fact that fierce discussions were held between the ruling and opposition parties on possible revision of the bills, I do not think we need to further change the bills." He then briefly explains the major points of differences between the ruling and opposition parties on the political reform bills.

Asked by Yamamoto if Prime Minister Hosokawa should take responsibility if he fails to get the bills passed in the Diet, Ishida says: "I think he is somewhat responsible for it. But I do not think his failure in passing the bills will lead to the dissolution of the House of Representatives or resignation of the cabinet en masse." He says "The responsibility also rests with both the ruling and the opposition parties," adding: "I do not think the prime minister alone should be held responsible."

Asked about the Komeito's policy conflict with the SDPJ, Ishida says it is nothing to worry about. He then discusses Komeito's relations with Shinseito, saying Shinseito's members' opinions are worth paying attention to because they have experience in running the government as LDP members. But he rules out the possibility of forming a new party with Shinseito in the near future.

On controversial relations between the Komeito and the Sokka Gakkai, a Buddhist sect, which LDP member Watanabe views as running counter to the principle of separating religion from politics, Ishida says he intends to work for more transparency in relations between the Komeito and the Soka Gakkai.

Asked about his view on plans by the Finance Ministry and the Tax Reform Council to raise the consumption tax and cut the income tax simultaneously, Ishida says: "There is an opinion that the effect of the income tax cut would be offset by the hike in the consumption tax. I do not think we should ignore this opinion. In this sense, even if the government decides to cut the income tax, deficit-covering bonds should be issued as fiscal revenue

source. The government should not decide to raise the consumption tax until in-depth discussions are held." The interview with Komeito Chairman Ishida ends at 0020 GMT.

At 0021 GMT, Yamamoto begins an interview with Ouchi. Asked by interviewer Yamada about the possibility of passing the political reform bills in the Diet during its current session, Ouchi says: "Our party will do its utmost to have the political reform bills passed. The duration of the current Diet was extended for 45 days. We have enough time to debate this issue. I think we can pass the bills after making thorough debates unless there is vicious obstruction to the debates." Asked about a possible compromise with the LDP, Ouchi says the coalition partners and the government have to make efforts to have the bills passed even by compromising with the LDP.

Noting the LDP is maintaining that the stimulus measures be placed ahead of political reform, Yamamoto asks Ouchi to comment on this. Ouchi points out the Hosokawa government was inaugurated after pledging to push for political reform and stresses "the need for the Hosokawa government to push for political reform to maintain a relationship of trust with the people," adding that the coalition government should not abandon or delay the stimulus measures. Ouchi also regrets the "government's decision to defer the compilation of a budget for fiscal 1994 to this year." Ouchi adds, "It is important for the coalition partners to work together to reassure the people of the prospect of an early economic recovery by unveiling the outline of the 1994 budget."

Asked by Yamamoto about the possibility of dissolving the House of Representatives if the political reform bills fail to pass in the Diet, Ouchi rules out the possibility and stresses the "coalition partners should do their utmost to pass the political reform bills in the Diet." Asked by Yamamoto about Prime Minister Hosokawa's political responsibility if the political reform bills are not passed in the Diet, Ouchi notes that Mr. Hosokawa recently apologized for his failure to pass them and made clear that he would take political responsibility. Ouchi makes it clear that "Mr. Hosokawa should take political responsibility one way or another if the bills fail to pass in the Diet."

Asked by Yamada about the economic outlook, Ouchi admits that "the more than 3 trillion yen stimulus measures have thus far failed to generate the desired effect of stimulating the economy" and stresses the "need for the coalition government to compile a third supplementary budget with the aim of helping the economy recover this summer." Ouchi also stresses "the need for the coalition government to seek bold tax cuts, and a policy to spur land and housing transactions, and overhaul the current monetary system." Discussing ways to cut taxes, Ouchi contends that income tax cuts and the consumption tax hike should be treated separately. Discussing the income tax cut, Ouchi says the ruling parties and the coalition government have yet to decide on it

and says his view is that at least 0.6 trillion yen should be cut from taxes to spur the stagnant economy, and deficit-covering bonds should not be issued. Discussing the realignment of the political parties, Ouchi says political parties that share the same policies should form a new party, and adds that "once the political reform bills are passed in the Diet, the political parties will immediately move behind-the-scenes toward a realignment." The interview with Ouchi ends at 0037 GMT.

At 0038 GMT, Yamamoto begins an interview with Takemura by pointing to a recent fall in the popular approval rating of the Hosokawa government. In response, Takemura concedes that the rating has fallen in the wake of the coalition government's decision to accept the GATT compromise proposal calling for a partial opening of the Japanese rice market, and adds the coalition government will work hard to regain popular support. Asked by Yamamoto about the personal relationship between Takemura and Ozawa, Takemura says: "Mr. Ozawa and I have often met for discussions of major political issues. Mr. Ozawa is a reformist politician. Mr. Ozawa and I are of almost the same view on reform programs including political and administrative reforms." He says there are some differences between them on how to carry out the reform programs.

Asked by Yamamoto about an alleged policy rift between the SDPJ and Shinseito, Takemura says he does not take this seriously, but admits the "existence of a sense of incongruity among the coalition partners." Takemura says the "SDPJ has a different security policy from the rest of the coalition partners." Takemura also says the "SDPJ has been working hard in the coalition government while making difficult decisions." Asked by Yamada if the political reform bills will be passed without fail in the Diet during its current session, Takemura says: "We are trying hard to pass them during the current Diet session. It was regrettable to fail to pass them in the Diet within 1993. I feel sorry for that. I intend to work hard to pass them in the House of Councillors." Discussing Prime Minister Hosokawa's political responsibility if the bills fail to pass in the Diet, Takemura says: "Prime Minister Hosokawa has repeatedly pledged to work for their passage with a firm resolve. The prime minister and I intend to do our utmost to pass them during the current Diet session."

Discussing the possibility of revising the political reform bills under deliberation in the House of Councillors, Takemura says: "Both ruling and opposition parties are closer to agreeing on the revision. If they make minor concessions to each other, they will find areas of agreement." Discussing the possibility of dissolving the House of Representatives, Takemura rules out this possibility and stresses the need for the coalition partners to resolve many thorny issues one by one while shoring up the coalition government. Discussing the stimulus measures, Takemura regrets the deferment of the compilation of the 1994 budget and reveals that "the coalition government intends to use all fiscal and monetary means to tackle the worst post-war recession while upholding the

principle of compiling an unprecedentedly bold third supplementary budget to spur the economy."

With regard to income tax reduction, Takemura says: "The coalition government intends to make a final decision on the size of the reduction. The prime minister is prepared to do so." Discussing the consumption tax hike, Takemura says he thinks the coalition government should make a decision on it after studying public opinion. Takemura also says the coalition government should avoid issuing deficit-covering bonds.

Asked by Yamamoto about prospects for a realignment of the political parties, Takemura says "it is desirable that political parties sharing the same policies and political beliefs forge a coalition to seize power, and a second realignment of the political parties will surely take place after the next elections." Asked by Yamamoto about the merger of Shinseito and Sakigake, Takemura says "there is no change in their plans to merge themselves and I intend to start talks with Shinseito on the merger in the near future." The interview with Takemura ends at 0052 GMT.

At 0053 GMT, Yamamoto begins interviews with Eda and Hosokawa. Eda says the United Socialist Party will play a key role in the realignment of the political parties. Commenting on the realignment, Eda says the LDP still has a powerful electoral base in the countryside and stresses "the need to ask voters in the next election whether they want to keep the Hosokawa government in place or put the LDP back in power." He adds the coalition partners should unite in the next election.

Asked by Yamamoto to comment on a stalemate in the deliberations of the political reform bills in the House of Councillors, Hoshikawa says: "I believe that since the Hosokawa government has staked its fate on the passage of the political reform bills in the Diet, the bills should be passed in the Diet at all costs." Discussing the realignment of the political parties, Hoshikawa says he supports forming a multiparty government to counter the LDP.

The series of interviews with heads of the ruling parties end at 0058 GMT.

Hata Discusses Economy, Political Reform OW0201092394 Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese 2130 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Editorial Report] Tokyo FNN Television Network in Japanese at 2130 GMT on 1 January 94, as part of its special New Year "News 2001" program, carries a live 90-minute discussion on political and economic issues. In the program moderated by newscasters Yuji Kuroiwa and Yuko Ando, guest commentators Kenichi Takemura, columnist, and Yoshiaki Kobayashi, professor of Keio University, take part at the FNN studio; five others join the discussion through remote hookups: Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata, Kochi Prefecture Governor

Daijiro Hashimoto, businessman Yasuyuki Nanbu in New York City, writer Yasutaka Tsutsui, and writer Yoshimi Ishikawa.

Most of the first 70 minutes of the program is devoted to discussions on such subjects as Japan's politics, education, and freedom of speech in general.

At 2240 GMT, newscasters turn to Foreign Minister Hata and ask him questions about the political situation. Kuroiwa asks the foreign minister what kind of year 1994 will be as far as politics is concerned. Minister Hata says: "We must make this year a year when politics will go forward and not backward, and a year when we can make proposals internationally."

Kuroiwa brings up the political reform issue, and asks Hata, who is president of Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party): "Will the current Diet enact the political reform bills?... Please tell us about the outlook of the bills getting passed."

Hata replies: "Some people predict it will be difficult. But public opinion shows that if the politicians, blinded by their own interests, fail to pass the bills again this time—no one will trust what the politicians say in the future. I think the Diet members have come to realize that too."

Kuroiwa notes that the economic recession remains another big issue, and asks for Hata's comment. Hata responds: "That issue can be dealt with at the same time the political reform issue is taken care of. We have a minister in charge of political reform. Mr. Yamahana is that minister. He heads the Political Reform Committee. It can take care of the matter, while other people can take cure of the economic issues. And that is actually what they are doing. Some people talk as if everybody were running around busy with the political reform issue, neglecting the economic issues. Reality is nothing like that."

Newscaster Kuroiwa reminds Hata that Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa had pledged to carry out political reform by the end of 1993 and had to apologize when that was not done and that Hosokawa then pledged that the reform will be carried out before the current Diet session ends. Kuroiwa asks Hata: "If the bills do not get passed again, will that mean the Diet will be dissolved?"

Hata answers: "We cannot just dissolve the Diet because we have many things to do now. On the contrary, however, it is possible, if we make serious mistakes, that the people may start demanding that we dissolve the Diet, calling for election system reform."

Citing the recent election in Russia as an example of rapid reform, Takemura points out that it takes time to make changes in Japan. Hata responds: "I agree. It seems that the Japanese people do not have enough courage to make changes." He adds: "Nearly 50 years have passed since the end of World War II and there are many things

which are outdated in our society." He then explains the need to change some outdated rules and systems.

Ishikawa says Japan cannot make changes without pressure from other countries (gaiatsu). Hata says: "Mr. Ishikawa is quite right. Unfortunately, everything started to move in the past because of other countries."

Kuroiwa asks Hata if he is willing to become Japan's next leader. Hata answers by saying: "As I have been doing, I will continue to exert all-out efforts to support the Hosokawa administration, which we created."

The discussion on political reforms ends at 2251 GMT, and the whole program ends by asking all the participants to give their views on what the Japanese should do in the future.

Imperial Couple's Year-End Statements Reported OW3112022293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0150 GMT

OW3112022293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0150 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 1 KYODO—The year 1994 will be busy for Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko with preparations proceeding for the couple's visits to the United States and Europe, the first attempt by a Japanese monarch to travel overseas twice in one year.

In mid-June, the emperor and the empress are expected to travel to the U.S., where they will visit eastern, southern and western cities. They also plan to make a stopover in Hawaii during the journey, official sources said.

Preparations are also under way for their trip to Britain and France in autumn, the sources said.

It will be the first time that a Japanese emperor will make more than one overseas trip in a year, they said.

A visit to the Middle East by Crown Prince Naruhito and his wife, Princess Masako, is also being considered, the first overseas trip by the couple since they got married last June, the sources said.

Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko spends [as received] the New Year's Day at a newly constructed residence within the Imperial Palace compound in central Tokyo.

On the opening of the New Year, the emperor said in a statement that he hopes disaster-stricken people will be able to stand firmly on their feet as quickly as possible, saying that the past year was full of numerous sufferings.

"It is highly regrettable that throughout the world many people are still victims of local conflicts," Emperor Akihito said in the statement. "On the other hand, it is gratifying to note signs of movement in the right direction, as in the case of Cambodia."

An unusually cool summer hit the already harsh economic environment and more than 400 people died or went missing in an earthquake and cloudbursts in Japan. On the quake-battered Okushiri Island in Hokkaido, Emperor Akihito said in one of his waka [Japanese-style poem], "I am sorrowful, to see the smoke wreaths rising, from things burning out,

There along the island shore, all strewn with broken houses."

In February, the emperor and the empress will visit Iwo Jima and the Ogasawara islands, where the fiercest fighting in World War II took place. The imperial couple will make the visit to the islets in the Pacific Ocean, far south of Tokyo, to mark the 25th anniversary of their return by the United States in 1969, Imperial Household Agency officials said.

Empress Michiko expressed her joy in her waka at her eldest son's marriage to Masako Owada, a former career diplomat.

"Hand in hand, may you climb together,

The mountain, which, now green with foliage, must be garmented in serene beauty," her waka said.

Empress Michiko, who collapsed on her 59th birthday last October 20 and suffered speech impairment, has partially recovered her ability to speak, and her condition is slowly getting better, doctors said.

Obayashi Firm Named in Sendai Bribery Case OW3112041693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0329 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 31 KYODO—General contractor Obayashi Corp. paid then Sendai Mayor Toru Ishii 10 million yen in July last year in connection with construction work for a waste incineration plant, sources said Friday. Obayashi, Japan's fourth-largest construction firm, passed on the money through timber company President Mitsuo Moriya, 65, a former deputy secretary general of the Liberal Democratic Party's Miyagi prefectural chapter and a close acquaintance of Ishii, the sources said.

Moriya paid the sum into a bank account he administered for Ishii, they said. The money allegedly came from Obayashi's branch office for Tohoku, northeastern Japan.

According to the sources, Obayashi paid the money in a bid to have its status in the city's Kuzuoka waste incineration plant project upgraded from subcontractor to main contractor for all construction works. Plant maker Hitachi Zosen Corp. of Osaka was the main contractor for the project, a 29.2 billion yen incineration plant for ordinary waste and an 8.2 billion yen incinerator for bulk waste.

The sources said Obayashi urged Ishii to commission the construction work for the bulk-waste incinerator separately from the orders placed with Hitachi Zosen, so that Obayashi could carry out the work under its company

name and reap higher profits. In response, Ishii instructed the city administration to review the contracts, advocating the separation of construction and technological works for the plant, but the changes never materialized, the sources said.

The incineration plant is scheduled to be completed by September 1995.

A spokesman for Obayashi's Tokyo headquarters denied that the company paid bribes to the mayor or ever asked for separated orders. Usually orders for waste disposal facilities are placed with a plant maker as the main contractor, which commissions subcontractors to do the construction work.

Ishii is on trial for allegedly taking a total of 130 million yen in bribes from six general contractors including Hazama Corp., Shimizu Corp., Taisei Co., and Nishimatsu Construction Co.

Moriya has been indicted in a separate bribery case involving former Miyagi Gov. Shuntaro (?who has been charged) with taking a 20 million yen bribe from Taisei in late January.

Prosecutors Target Politicians in Probe

OW3112114793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1044 GMT 71 Dec 93

[Text] Tokyo, Dec. 31 KYODO—Five to six incumbent or former parliamentarians may come under investigation by prosecutors in 1994 in connection with the payment of slush funds from major construction firms, investigative sources said Friday [31 December]. The investigation into such payments rocked Japanese society during the past year.

The Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office has narrowed the number of possible suspects to the handful of parliamentarians, who had either been cabinet ministers or had exerted influence on general contractors and Construction Ministry officials, the sources said.

Prosecutors are looking into whether those politicians had professional authority in connection with the receipt of the money, an essential precondition for being able to arrest and then indict them, the sources said.

Over the past decade of bribery scandals involving politicians in Japan, prosecutors faced difficulty in proving that they had official authority. In most cases, politicians called the money they received "political donations," paid to support their political activities.

In the past year, prosecutors arrested and subsequently indicted two governors, three mayors and a number of executive officials of general contractors for bribery in connection with prefectural and municipal public works projects. Among the businessmen arrested were Takashi Hashimoto, 57, then vice president of Taisei Corp.,

Hiroyuki Koyama, 67, then vice president of Shimizu Corp., and Shinji Kiyoyama, 67, then vice president of Kajima Corp.

Hashimoto was charged with sending 20 million yen each to then Miyagi Gov. Shuntaro Honma and then Sendai Mayor Toru Ishii, Koyama with giving 10 million yen to then Ibaraki Gov. Fujio Takeuchi, and Kiyoyama with supplying Takeuchi 20 million yen. The delivery of the money was conducted between December 1992 and January 1993.

These governors, mayors and businessmen all resigned after their arrest. Kiyoyama, Koyama and Hashimoto have told prosecutors that they provided secret money to politicians.

Over the past several years, general contractors have reportedly provided 5 million to 10 million yen each in secret money to former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, Shinseito co-leader Ichiro Ozawa, former Posts and Telecommunication Minister Hideo Watanabe and former Construction Minister Kishiro Nakamura. These politicians were once highly regarded members of the Liberal Democratic Party's construction lobby.

Takeshita, who was prime minister between November 1987 and June 1989, is currently a conservative independent after he was dropped from the LDP list of candidates in the July 18 general election for the House of Representatives. He was at the center of public criticism for allegedly winning support from an underground boss to become LDP president in 1987, a position that carried with it the post of prime minister at that time.

Ozawa currently is one of the most influential politicians as the chief political strategist for the coalition government of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa. As the favorite disciple of disgraced political power broker Shin Kanemaru, he served as an LDP secretary general and acting head of the LDP's largest faction headed by Kanemaru. But he parted from the LDP to form Shinseito (Japan Renewal Party) in June.

Watanabe, who was posts and telecommunications minister under then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa for one year starting in November 1991, lost his seat in the July general election.

Nakamura joined the Miyazawa cabinet as construction minister in the December 1992 reshuffle.

A number of construction scandals have surfaced since Kanemaru, a former LDP vice president, was arrested in March on suspicion of evading more than 1 billion yen in income tax. The arrest came five months after Kanemaru retired from politics.

The number of contractor executives and heads of prefectural and municipal governments apprehended stands at 29.

Watanabe 'Promised' Bribe for Political Fix OW0201102294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1002 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 2 KYODO—Kajima Corp. executives promised in 1988 to give 70 million yen to Hideo Watanabe, former posts minister, in return for his influence in gaining government permission to build a hotel complex in a Tokyo park, informed sources said Sunday [2 January]. Kajima Chairman Rokuro Ishikawa, 68, Vice Chairman Shoichi Kajima, 6? and President Akira Miyazaki, 70, approved the plan ... provide the unreported "donations," the sources said. At the time, Kajima was president and Miyazaki a vice president.

Twice annually—during the summer and year-end giftgiving seasons—5 million yen was "donated" to Watanabe through the Liberal Democratic Party's fundraising body, Kokumin Seiji Kyokai. Altogether, Watanabe received 40 million yen from August 1988 through December 1991 in this manner, the sources said.

The Tokyo district public prosecutors office is probing into the matter, sources close to the investigation said.

Nippon Television City Corp., a company that owns and leases Tokyo Tower's communications facilities to various television and radio stations, planned in 1987 to build a high-rise hotel project on land lying within Tokyo's Shiba Park. It awarded the contract to build the computerized "intelligent building" to Kajima.

The project was initially regarded as difficult because the land lay within the park, where commercial construction is severely restricted by the Tokyo metropolitan government to protect and preserve urban greenery.

However, the Tokyo government issued permission in October 1988, a few months after the summer of that year when Watanabe asked metropolitan authorities to grant a waiver exempting the project from the building restrictions.

Just prior to that, Watanabe, now 59, had held the post of deputy chief cabinet secretary to the Cabinet of then Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone from July 1986 to November 1987.

Watanabe assumed the post of "advisor" to Nippon Television City Corp. in May, 1988, five months before the Tokyo government approved the Shiba Park high-rise development.

Afterwards Watanabe held the position of posts and telecommunications minister from November 1991 to December 1992 under then Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Watanabe, a six-term member of the Diet's House of Representatives, lost his seat in last July's general election.

Payment of the unreported "donations" were suspended when the project was aborted following the breakdown of contract talks between Nippon Television City and a foreign hotel operator that had planned to use the building as its Tokyo branch, the sources added.

Former Kajima Vice President Shinji Kiyoyama and other top Kajima executives were arrested last year over the giving of bribes to then Sendai Mayor Toru Ishii and Ibaraki Gov. Fujio Takeuchi.

Ishikawa headed the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce and Industry from December 1987 until his resignation last August.

Kajima Corp., one of Japan's three largest general contractors, was also implicated in a bid-rigging scandal involving public projects in Saitama Prefecture. In May 1992, the Fair Trade Commission ordered the company to stop its alleged unfair business practices.

Coalition Talks on Tax Increase, Cut Previewed

OW0301140594 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0306 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Announcer-read report over video; from the "NHK News" program]

[Text] It is expected that full-fledged intracoalition discussions on the issue of how to secure sources of revenue to make up for a revenue shortfall resulting from the income tax cut, which the Hosokawa Government plans as a prop of its economic stimulus measures, will begin early in the new year. However, there is a growing voice within the ruling parties, including in the Social Democratic Party of Japan [SDPJ], that the Finance Ministry-proposed hike in the consumption tax rate should not be included in the immediate economic pump-priming measures. For that reason, there is a view that the government will make a political decision on this issue with emphasis on ensuring the unity of the ruling parties.

The ruling coalition government is scheduled to resume sessions of the economic affairs consultation council, which is composed of representatives from each of the ruling parties, starting on 5 January in hopes of reaching a certain conclusion—it is hoped by the middle of January—on the issue of cutting the income tax and raising the consumption tax. In this connection, the Finance Ministry insists that the decision should be made to raise the consumption tax simultaneously with the income tax cuts on the grounds that even if the income tax cut is carried out before the consumption tax is raised, it is necessary to decide in the council session on the timing of raising the consumption tax.

On the contrary, the SDPJ, the largest party in the ruling coalition, is strongly opposed to a hike in the consumption tax, saying that sources of revenue should be obtained by issuing deficit-covering bonds. In addition, some SDPJ member are saying that the party should leave the coalition depending on the situation. There is another opinion within the other ruling parties that

although it is inevitable that there will need to be a study of a possible increase in the consumption tax as a source of revenue for the future improvement of the welfare system, the issue of raising the consumption tax should be discussed separately from the issue of the tax cut, which the government plans to include in its immediate economic stimulus measures.

In this way, there are opinions within the ruling parties opposing the simultaneous implementation of the tax cut and the hike in the consumption tax, and therefore, work for an intracoalition coordination of views on this issue is expected to be rough sailing. In this sense, a view has also been expressed that Prime Minister Hosokawa will make a political decision with emphasis on how the deliberation of political reform bills—wherein attention has been focused on the SDPJ's move—will develop and on the unity of the ruling partners.

Business Seeks Reform in Financial Sector

OW0301085594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0802 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 3 KYODO—Two of Japan's major business bodies released statements Monday [3 January] calling for reforms in the financial sector and achieving stability in Japan's financial system to help the country move out of recession.

The Japan Association of Corporate Executives (Keizai Doyukai) urged financial institutions to quit their uniform management strategies and rather emphasize their differences.

In the banking sector, follow-the-leader psychology has long been the norm.

The Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) said an income tax cut is necessary this year, while stabilizing the financial system en route to lifting Japan out of the slumbering economy.

Analysts say such comments reflect concerns by the business community over Japan's financial system and may touch off debate about the possible injection of public funds to stabilize banking and securities systems.

Keizai Doyukai called on business leaders to acknowledge the fact that Japan's economy has shifted to one that is led by domestic demand and from an export-led economy as seen in the era of high growth.

The organization went on to say Japan will now have to face employment issues and the traditional lifelong employment system should be revised to improve labor efficiency.

Akashi Urges Taking Initiative in Stronger UN OW0201130594 Tokyo KYODO in English 1156 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] New York, Jan. 2 KYODO—Yasushi Akashi, new U.N. special representative for the former Yugoslavia,

has urged Japan to take the initiative in strengthening the United Nations. In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE before his departure on Saturday [1 January] to the former Yugoslav Republic of Croatia, Akashi said Japan should not pretend that it is indifferent to a proposal to upgrade Japan's standing in the world body to that of a permanent member of the U.N. Security council.

"If Japan were given the status of a Security Council permanent member, it needs to act in accordance with its new responsibility because the Security Council is responsible for ensuring world peace and security," he said.

Akashi, who previously headed the U.N. peacekeeping force in Cambodia, asked the Japanese to meditate upon the issue of why Japan cannot assume a military role in U.N. peacekeeping when other countries' peacekeepers are engaged in high-risk fields of peacekeeping. "There is a question why Japan failed to send a contingent of foot soldiers as peacekeepers despite the fact that it could dispatch a contingent of engineering troops to Cambodia," he said.

"If Japanese people can hammer out a national agreement on this matter, I want Japan to send a contingent of foot soldiers as peacekeepers," said the U.N. undersecretary general. It is the Japanese people who should make a decision whether the dispatch of foot soldiers is constitutional or not, he added.

Akashi said both the United States and the U.N. became more cautious toward peacekeeping following U.N. peacekeepers' failure to establish peace in Somalia.

The U.S. decided to pull its troops out of the African nation following their failure to arrest Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid.

"There occurred tough problems (in Somalia) in such fields as peacekeepers' command structure, the scope of weapons they are allowed to use, as well as the issue of training of peacekeepers that participated" from various countries, he said.

Akashi referred to the Cambodian experience, where the use of heavy weapons in dealing with the threat from the "deep-rooted" Khmer Rouge would have run the risk of drawing the U.N. peacekeepers into a "quagmire."

In December, Akashi urged the Japanese Government to send peacekeepers to the Balkans region, where civil war has already killed an estimated 200,000 people, and has strong potential to spread. Then Akashi said he believed Japanese laws "allow" Japanese peacekeepers to join the U.N. protection forces (UNPROFOR) in the region "in such logistics fields as medical service, transportation and communications."

FTC Head Promises Continued Law Enforcement OW0301025094 Tokyo KYODO in English 0140 GMT 3 Jan 94

[By William Mallard]

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 3 KYODO—Even some long-time critics say Japan's antitrust watchdog seems to be trying out a new-found set of fangs, spurred by overseas and domestic pressure. But the jury is still out on whether the Fair Trade Commission (FTC) has developed a bite to match its bark.

With recent high-profile actions against bid-rigging and cartels, including last year's first criminal convictions in 17 years, even adversaries acknowledge progress.

"I remember people saying the FTC is a dog that doesn't bite," says a U.S. official involved with Japan. "They're certainly biting now." But the official quickly sounds Washington's undimmed cry—"the antimonopoly law has to be enforced in a stronger way."

Indeed, the head of the commission, while highlighting the FTC's recently beefed-up powers and repeating his vows to crack down harder, stops short of saying the commission's work will begin to reduce monopolistic practices in Japan in 1994.

"I'd like to hope so. That's my wish," says a grave-faced Masami Kogayu, the FTC's chairman. "But I am not optimistic."

Despite the commission's recent attention, "there may be enterprises or sectors that will not heed the antimonopoly law, through misunderstanding or overconfidence," he says, the former vice finance minister choosing his words precisely as he sits bolt upright in a low-slung chair in his broad, sparse office.

In an interview in Tokyo's Kasumigaseki government district and briefing Japanese reporters, Kogayu spells out recent FTC actions, defends antitrust enforcement and asks observers to stay tuned.

In mid-December, ruling on an indictment sought by the FTC, the Tokyo high court convicted four major printing companies of bid-ridding contracts to make peel-off stickers for pension notification cards. It fined each company 4 million yen.

Seven months earlier, the court found eight makers of plastic food wrap guilty of price-fixing, fining them 6 million to 8 million yen each in Japan's first criminal antitrust action since a mid-1970s oil cartel case.

Although "it's a little bit too early to tell," the two cases "are probably an indication of a new trend in antitrust enforcement by way of criminal enforcement," says trade law expert Mitsuo Matsushita, a Tokyo University law professor.

Formal actions, including the rare criminal indictments, rose from seven in fiscal 1989 to 37 in fiscal 1992.

Through December, the commission took 16 actions in the year starting last April but with seasonal disparities the fiscal 1993 count may exceed the previous year's, Kogayu says.

Japan's antitrust policy, more carrot than stick, "heavily relies on a more informal enforcement, guidance and so forth," that can mount to some 800 cases in a year, Matsushita says. But that's just what irks some foreign companies.

"Lack of vigorous application of the antimonopoly law and ambiguous explanations by the Fair Trade Commission for pressing or not pressing certain cases" block foreign would-be competitors unfairly, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan said in its 1993 white paper on trade.

"This selective application of antimonopoly statutes is often seen as preventing full access to Japan's complex distribution system," the report says.

Washington is asking the FTC to study several business sectors, a senior U.S. trade official says, adding U.S. proposals in bilateral talks "focus on competition policy and enforcement of the antimonopoly act."

Kogayu notes that the FTC has vowed to step up indictments. Its enforcement of the antimonopoly law, enacted in the wake of World War II, "does not stop at just inflicting an extremely severe burden on business violators, it is very closely linked with a deterrent effect," he says.

By far the most common formal action is a warning, accompanied by what Kogayu calls a uniquely Japanese enforcement tool—automatic surcharges on the portion of sales that the FTC judges to be ill-gotten. In the last two years, the Diet has raised the surcharge rate and boosted the maximum fine for criminal antimonopoly law violations by 20 times to 100 million yen.

Critics say an FTC study group watered down its original plan to recommend even stiffer fines and Kogayu acknowledges that the maximum is about one-tenth that under U.S. antitrust law. But he stresses the FTC's panoply of fines and surcharges, its commitment in principle to supply some documents to plaintiffs in civil suits and the effect of bad publicity on offenders.

"Evaluated in total, the deterrent effect against violators of Japan's antimonopoly law is absolutely not less than that of America or Europe," Kogayu says. "I think it is by no means inferior."

He also points to action on other fronts. Since their 1965 peak of 1,079, the number of cartels exempted from the antimonopoly law has been squeezed to 71 and the FTC is requiring the remainder to show proof why they too should not be eliminated, Kogayu says.

In November, the FTC searched the offices of such leading electronics makers as Sony Corp. and Toshiba Corp., seeking evidence of bid-rigging for giant video

screens. Commission investigators also searched Shiseido Co. On suspicion it illegally forced retailers not to discount its cosmetics.

"Our tools have been strengthened and we have just begun using them," Kogayu says. "Please watch our actions. The results are now coming out."

North Korea

Kim Il-song Delivers 1994 New Year Address

SK0101013594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0000 GMT 1 Jan 94

["New Year address" by Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee and DPRK president, at a joint meeting of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK Central People's Committee, and the Administration Council in the grand conference room of the Kumsusan Assembly Hall on 31 December 1993—recorded]

[Text] [Applause] Dear comrades, compatriots, and brothers and sisters: Today, we are ringing out 1993, which is brilliant with heroic struggles and feats, and ringing in the new year, 1994, filled with confidence and optimism. [applause]

In greeting the New Year, I extend warm congratulations and warm greetings to all the people, including our working class, cooperative peasants, intellectuals, and People's Army officers and men, who, with boundless loyalty to the party and the leader [suryong], are devotedly waging the struggle for the chuche-oriented socialist cause. [applause]

I extend warm congratulations and compatriotic greetings to brothers and sisters in South Korea and Korean residents in Japan and all the other compatriots overseas who are positively waging the struggle to peacefully reunify the fatherland. [applause]

I extend New Year greetings to the progressive peoples and friends on the five continents who treasure justice and peace and aspire for an independent new world. [applause]

The year 1993 was a historic year when the justness of our party's independent revolutionary lines and the might of chuche Korea were displayed powerfully. [applause]

Last year, the imperialists and reactionaries more viciously than ever maneuvered to isolate and stifle [korip chilsik] our Republic and obliterate [malsal] our socialist cause. As a result, the situation in our country has become very tense.

When a stern trial faced the fatherland and revolution, our party, in response to the prevailing situation, took the bold self-defensive measure of declaring a state of semi-war in the entire country, all the people, and the entire Army and called on all the people to break through head-on [matpadanagamyo] the enemy's challenge with the revolutionary spirit and militant spirit—which was displayed during the period of the stern fatherland liberation war—and score great upsurges in socialist construction.

Our heroic People's Army officers and men and all the people, who accepted the party's militant call with their hearts, rose up like one in the struggle to defend national independence and the revolutionary feats with confidence in a sure victory and soaring spirits, crushed the enemy's challenge and aggression maneuvers, and honorably defended the dignity and safety of the socialist fatherland, thus fully displaying the indomitable spirit of chuche Korea. [applause]

This is the victory of our party's revolutionary lines and the great victory of single-minded unity among the leader [suryong], party, and masses. [applause]

Last year our people, under the leadership of the party, attained successive victories in the political and military confrontation with the enemies. With high revolutionary zeal, they vigorously accelerated the socialist economic construction and brilliantly concluded the final year of the Third Seven-Year Plan. [applause]

During the Third Seven-Year Plan period, we came up against considerable difficulty and obstacle in the economic construction owing to the unexpected international events and the acute situation created in the country, but we have made great progress in all fields of socialist economic construction. Our independent industry made significant expansion in the overall production capacity, the standard of its technology and equipment was enhanced much, and its structure by sectors further reinforced, thereby its self-reliance and might was further strengthened.

In the rural economic sector, the great nature-remaking project of completing irrigation at a higher level was victoriously conducted and an upturn was brought forth in mechanization and scientization. With the further development of agricultural science and technology in conformity with the chuche agricultural method, we built a solid revolutionary agricultural foundation ensuring a continuous bumper crop.

According to our party's idea of capital construction, the magnificent and splendid Kwangbok Street, Tongil Street, the Fatherland Liberation War Victory Monument, the Three Revolutions Exhibition Center, the May Day Stadium, and numerous other monumental creations were built during the Third Seven-Year Plan period. This intensively demonstrates the might of the inexhaustible creativity and our country's self-reliant national economy. It clearly symbolizes the heroic spirit of socialist Korea which victoriously advances undisturbed by the worldwide economic recession. [applause]

Despite today's complicated situation, our people are all enjoying rewarding, happy lives free from social and political unrest or worries about livelihood under the popular mass-centered socialist system of our country. The communist virtues, in which the people help and encourage each other—one for all and all for one—sharing joy and sorrow, prevail more beautifully in the entire society.

Through a stern trial and struggle in recent times, we strongly demonstrated once again that our party is a great party of iron-will and tested guidance, that our people are a heroic people of firm revolutionary faith and indomitable struggle spirit, and that our-style socialism embodying the chuche idea is an indestructible socialism taking root deep among the popular masses. [applause]

I warmly thank all the people—including our workers, farmers, intellectuals, and the soldiers of the People's Army—for the shining exploits they have accomplished in the revolution and construction last year under the party's leadership. [applause]

The New Year of 1994 is a year of revolutionary upturn when our country's socialist construction enters a new developmental stage and a year of rewarding struggle when the entire party membership, the entire country, and all the people should be totally mobilized to effect revolutionary upsurge in all fronts.

The situation at home and abroad of our revolution is still complicated and strained, and we are building socialism in acute confrontation with the enemies. In conformity with today's situation and the demand of our revolution's development, we must thoroughly implement the independent, self-reliant, and self-defending revolutionary line and vigorously conduct the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—so that we may further strengthen the country's political, economic, and military might.

We must solidify and develop the successes we have already attained in socialist construction and win new greater victories so that we may add luster to the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style and hold further aloft the chuche socialist banner. [applause]

We should consider the next three years to be an adjustment period for the socialist economic construction as decided at the 21st plenary session of the sixth party Central Committee. We should thoroughly implement a policy of top priority for agriculture, light industry, and trade during this period.

Along with this, we should firmly give priority to developing the coal and electric power industries and railway transportation, which are primary sectors in the national economy. We should constantly develop the metal industry. By thoroughly implementing our party's revolutionary strategies during the adjustment period for the socialist economic construction, we should consolidate as firm as a rock the self-reliant economic foundation of the country, should more smoothly ensure the people's lives in keeping with the socialist demand, and

should secure a new position of attack to reach a higher target of socialism. [applause]

This year, we should concentrate our strength on developing agriculture, the light industry, and foreign trade. This year is a significant year. It marks the 30th anniversary of the publication of the socialist rural theses. We should effect a new turn in developing the rural economy by vigorously struggling to implement the historic task of the rural theses. We should further develop all fields of agricultural production, including the production of grains, by consolidating the successes of irrigation and electrification in the rural areas, realizing the mechanization and widespread use of chemicals at a higher level, and by thoroughly carrying out the chuche-oriented farming method in the rural areas.

Our working class should produce more tractors, automobiles, modern agricultural farming instruments, chemical fertilizers, and farming medicines, and send them to rural villages. With the attitude befitting the masters responsible for the national granary, the people working in agricultural cooperatives and all the people working in agriculture should conduct all farming work carefully and frugally and realize the high target of grain production provided by the party. [applause]

We should make a great innovation in producing people's consumer goods by vigorously accelerating the light industry revolution. We should repair, supplement, and modernize light industry plants. We should take a positive measure to strengthen the production of light industry raw materials, such as chemical fibers and plastics. By so doing, we should operate all light industry plants at full capacity and normalize production at a higher level.

Ranging the large-scale central light industry from smalland medium-sized local industries and the production of 3 August people's consumer goods, all units and domains should fully produce various people's consumer goods. By so doing, we should increase the types of consumer goods and actually improve their quality.

We should positively pioneer foreign markets and thoroughly win our reputation in developing foreign trade in keeping with the changing circumstances. Various domains of the national economy should thoroughly strengthen the production bases for export goods, increase production of export goods, and improve their quality.

All domains and all locals should further increase export by positively finding and mobilizing the sources of export. They should also develop the processing trade.

We should put efforts into the coal, electrict power, and metal industries in a bid to develop agriculture and the light industry and vigorously accelerate the overall economic construction of the country. We should more smoothly resolve the railway transportation issue. The fields of coal and electric power industries should effectively use existing production foundations and further develop the production capacity. They thereby should decisively increase the production of coal and electricity. We should smoothly meet the daily-increasing demand for transportation of the national economy by strengthening the railroad's material and technological foundation, setting up a policy for transportation, commanding the transportation organization, and actively making the railways strong.

All units and domains of the national economy should vigorously launch the campaign for the struggle for production and conservation as an all-people movement. By so doing, they should effectively use existing labor, facilities, and equipment, and should fully mobilize inner reserves and increase production.

All the economic guidance officials must carry out economic organizational work and production management to comply with the party's economic strategies, have the popular masses display their revolutionary enthusiasm and positive creativity, and, thus overfull the people's economic plan for this year.

Contributing to socialist construction with scientific knowledge and technology is our intellectuals' honorable duty. In hearty response to the party's policy on cultural revolution, intellectuals must devotedly wage the struggle to achieve new development in science, education, culture and arts, public health, and all other fields of socialist cultural construction.

This year we must also cope with the enemy's war provocation maneuvers and make proper efforts to strengthen the country's defense capability. We must firmly prepare ourselves politically, ideologically, militarily, and materially so that we may confidently cope with any unexpected development, and thoroughly establish the environment in the entire society of regarding military affairs [kunsa] as important and actively assisting the People's Army. [applause]

To vigorously push ahead with revolution and construction under today's circumstances, we must strongly adhere to our party's policy on ideological revolution, further strengthen single-minded unity in the revolutionary ranks, and highly demonstrate the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance. Single-minded unity and selfreliance are the immortal, honorable traditions of our revolution and the banners of victory. [applause]

We have opened the road of brilliant victory after overcoming stern trials with the might of single-minded unity and made great progress in revolution and construction while overcoming all difficulties with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

When all the people fight vigorously by being singlemindedly united around the party and the leader [suryong] and highly demonstrating the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle, can we defend and maintain the socialism of our own style and boundlessly glorify it and victoriously complete the chuche-oriented socialist cause no matter the trial we may face. [applause]

We must defend single-minded unity in our revolutionary ranks, which has been consolidated like a rock under our party's leadership, as the most precious and further consolidate and develop it.

We must break through difficulties at hand and score new upsurges in socialist construction by more highly displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle.

"Let us vigorously accelerate the grand socialist onward march with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and arduous struggle!" This is the call of our party today and a militant slogan that our people must uphold. [applause]

In hearty response to the party's militant call, all the officials, party members, and workers must continue their innovation and advance in the spirit of Chollima spurred on by the speed of the nineties and, thus, make the New Year, 1994, a historic year of turns in revolution and construction in our country. [applause]

The fatherland's reunification is a foremost national task to our people that cannot be delayed even for a moment. We must achieve the cause of the fatherland's reunification at the earliest possible date, and thus, fulfill all the fellow countrymen's unanimous earnest desire and hand the reunified fatherland over to the posterity. [applause]

Our party and the Republic Government put forward the 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country in a bid to lay a foundation for national reunification through the united national strength last year and has made all efforts to realize the 10-point program.

Our 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country reflects the 70 million fellow countrymen's noble desire to firmly unite all people as one by transcending the difference in ideology, ideas, and systems and to achieve the reunification and prosperity of our nation who has the long history of half a century.

We wanted the South Korean authorities to come out to the road of reconciliation and cooperation by responding to our 10-point program of great unity of the whole nation for reunification of the country. We also took the important measure for exchanging special envoys of the two sides' top leaders. However, the South Korean authorities have ignored our magnanimous proposals and all the people's desire for reunification. They have taken the road of depending upon foreign forces, not the road of national independence; they have taken the road to the North-South confrontation, not the road to national unity.

While frequently conducting large-scale military exercises against our Republic, in collusion with outside

forces and talking about military countermeasures [kunsajok taeung] or an international cooperation system under the pretext of our nuclear issue, the South Korean authorities are leading North-South relations to a dangerous phase.

The so-called South Korean civilian regime is only so in appearance [houl ppunida], and is actually not different from the preceding military dictatorial regime. Anticommunist and fascist evil laws have remained as they are in South Korea. The South Korean people's desire for independence, democracy, and national reunification have not been realized. The South Korean people and figures of all strata are saying that they no longer have any further expectations of the current South Korean regime. This is natural.

If I speak of our nuclear issue, which the United States and its followers are babbling about, it is because of the antisocialist, anti-Republic maneuver which the United States has persistently sought.

It is the United States that raised the nonexistent nuclear issue and brought the nuclear weapons into the Korean peninsula in actuality, thus threatening us. Therefore, the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula must be resolved through DPRK-U.S. talks. Pressure and threat cannot work on us. If the United States adheres to such methods, it cannot resolve the issue and may drive the situation to a catastrophe [paguk]. The United States should look straight at all facts and act with discretion.

Under the circumstances in which the DPRK-U.S. joint statement was adopted, if the two sides abide by and implement the principles which were already reached, the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula can be impartially resolved.

There is no change in the principle and line of our party and the Republic Government for national reunification. We will make all efforts to achieve the national reunification by means of a confederation based on one nation, one state, two systems, and two governments according to the three-point principles of independence, peaceful reunification, and the great national unity.

The destiny of the fatherland is the destiny of the nation and the destiny of all our compatriots at home and abroad. All the Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas should be united and wage a pannational struggle under the banner of great unity of the whole nation in order to open a new phase for national reunification this year. [applause]

Although the imperialists are raving about the end of socialism in the international arena, indulging in bravado and bluster, they cannot block the people's aspiration for independence and socialism, nor can they reverse the trend of history. If the world's progressive people strengthen unity and solidarity under the anti-imperialist banner for independence and actively push forward the trend of history, they will certainly expedite mankind's bright future. [applause]

Our party and the government of the Republic will consistently implement the external policy of independence, peace, and friendship in conformity with the demand of the present situation. We will make active efforts to maintain unity with socialist and nonaligned countries on the principle of independence. We will also develop good neighborly and friendly relations with capitalist countries which respect our country's sovereignty. [applause]

The government of our Republic will destroy the old international political and economic order of domination and subjugation, establish new international political and economic order based on equality, justice, and fairness, and make active efforts to develop South-South cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance.

Our people's struggle today is arduous, but it is an honorable and sacred struggle for the growth and prosperity of our fatherland and for the future of mankind. Ever-victorious are our people who struggle for the just cause under the great party's leadership. [applause]

Let us all firmly unite around the party Central Committee under the banner of the chuche idea and wage a vigorous struggle to win new victory in socialist construction and to expedite the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. [applause]

KCNA Carries Kim Il-song Speech

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[Text] Pyongyang, January 1 (KCNA)—A joint meeting of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central People's Committee and the Administration Council of the DPRK was held at the Grand Conference Room of the Kumsusan Assembly Hall on December 31, 1993.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, delivered a New Year address at the joint meeting.

His New Year address reads in full:

Dear comrades, compatriots, brothers and sisters,

Today we are ringing out 1993, a brilliant year which has been marked with a heroic struggle and great exploits, and ringing in a new year 1994, full of confidence and optimism.

On the occasion of the new year, I extend warm congratulations and fervent greetings to our working class, cooperative farmers, intellectuals, officers and men of the People's Army, and all the other people who have been working hard with devotion for the socialist cause of chuche, with unfailing loyalty to the party and the revolution. My warm congratulations and compatriotic greetings also go to our brothers in the South, our fellow Koreans in Japan, and all the other Koreans abroad who have been striving for the peaceful reunification of the country.

I also extend my new year greetings to the progressive people and our friends on the five continents who value justice and peace and are advancing towards a new world of independence.

1993 was a historic year which powerfully demonstrated the validity of our party's revolutionary line of independence and the might of chuche Korea.

Last year the imperialists and reactionaries worked more malignantly than ever to isolate and stifle our Republic and crush our cause of socialism. As a result, the situation in our country became extremely tense. When the country and the revolution were faced with a stern trial, our party took resolute self-defensive measures by declaring the state of semi-war for the whole country, all the people and the entire Army in order to cope with the prevailing situation. It called on all the people to meet the enemy's challenge and bring about a great upsurge in socialist construction in the same revolutionary spirit and militant stamina as they had displayed during the years of the grim fatherland liberation war.

The officers and men of our heroic People's Army and all the people, in hearty response to the party's militant call, stood up as one man in the struggle to defend the country's sovereignty and revolutionary achievements with an unshakable confidence in victory and in soaring spirits, foiled the enemy's challenge and aggressive scheme and honourably safeguarded the dignity and security of their socialist motherland. Thus they fully demonstrated the unbreakable spirit of chuche Korea. This means the victory of our party's revolutionary line, a great victory of the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party and the masses.

Last year, while achieving one victory after another under the party's leadership in the political and military confrontation with the enemy, our people brilliantly adorned the last year of the Third Seven-Year Plan by accelerating the construction of the socialist economy with great revolutionary enthusiasm. During the Third Seven-Year Plan we made long strides in all fields of socialist economic construction in spite of the enormous difficulties and obstacles caused in economic construction by unexpected international events and the tension in our country.

The production capacity of our chuche-orientated industry has been considerably expanded as a whole, the level of its technical equipment greatly raised and the structure of its branches has been improved still more, thus further increasing its independence and capabilities. In agriculture grand nature-harnessing projects to complete irrigation on a high level have been carried out victoriously, a great advance made in its mechanization and in the application of chemicals, and agricultural

science and technology have developed still further in keeping with the requirements of the chuche farming method, with the result that a solid foundation of agricultural production has been laid to ensure a bumper crop every year. Numerous monumental creations such as magnificent and splendid Kwangbok and Tongil Streets, the monument to the victorious fatherland liberation war, the three-revolution exhibition and the May Day Stadium were built in Pyongyang during the Third Seven-Year Plan in accordance with our party's plan for the construction of the capital. They graphically illustrate the unfathomable creative force of our working people and the might of our independent national economy and clearly symbolize the heroic mettle of socialist Korea which is advancing triumphantly in spite of any upheavals in the world situation.

Under our people-centred socialist system our people enjoy a worthy and happy life on an equal basis free from any social and political unrest and without any worries about their life even in the present complex situation, and a beautiful communist morality is flowering further throughout our society, the people sharing weal and woe and helping and leading each other forward, on the principle of one for all and all for one.

Through the recent harsh trials and struggle we have convincingly proved once again that our party is a great party possessing an iron will and capable of seasoned leadership, that our people are a heroic people having unshakable revolutionary confidence and unbreakable fighting spirit, and that the socialism of our own style embodying the chuche idea is an unconquerable socialism which has struck its roots deep among the popular masses.

I express my warm gratitude to our workers, farmers, intellectuals, the soldiers of the People's Army and all the rest of our people who, under the party's leadership, performed brilliant exploits last year in the revolution and construction.

The new year 1994 is a year of a revolutionary advance when the building of socialism in our country will enter a new stage of development; it is a year of a worthy struggle for the entire party, the whole country and all the people to make an all-out effort and effect a great revolutionary upsurge on all fronts.

The internal and external situation of our revolution is still complex and tense, and we are building socialism in a sharp confrontation with the enemy.

To meet the requirements of the present situation and the development of our revolution we must carry out the revolutionary line of independence, self-sufficiency and self-reliant defence and expedite the three revolutions—ideological, technical and cultural—to further increase the political, economic and military power of the country. We must consolidate and exploit the successes we have already achieved in the socialist construction and must score a fresh, greater success. In this way we

will add glory to the socialism of our country centred on the popular masses and fly the socialist banner of chuche higher.

Setting the next three years as a period for adjustment in the sector of socialist economic construction as decided at the twenty-first plenary meeting of the Sixth Party Central Committee, we must in this period implement to the letter the agriculture-first, light industry-first and foreign trade-first policy. Along with this, we must give definite precedence to the coal industry, power industry and rail transport, which must advance ahead of the other sectors of the national economy, and must continue to develop the metal industry.

By carrying out the revolutionary economic strategy of our party during the period of adjustment for socialist economic construction we will consolidate the foundations of the nation's independent economy rock-solid, further improve the people's standard of living to meet the socialist requirements and secure a new launching point for scaling a higher eminence of socialism.

This year we must concentrate our effort on the development of agriculture, light industry and foreign trade.

This is a meaningful year which will mark the 30th anniversary of the publishing of the theses on the socialist rural question in our country. By striving to carry out the historic tasks set in the theses, we must make a new advance in the development of the rural economy. We must consolidate the successes achieved in the irrigation and electrification of the rural areas, raise the level of mechanization and application of chemicals, implement the chuche farming method thoroughly and thus boost grain and all other agricultural production. Our working class must increase the production of tractors, lorries and other modern farm machines, fertilizers, agricultural chemicals and a variety of other farming materials, and send them to the rural communities. All the cooperative farmers and agricultural working people must work in an assiduous and methodical manner with an attitude befitting masters who are responsible for the nation's granaries so as to attain without fail the high goal of grain production set by the party for this year.

We must step up the revolution in light industry and effect a great upsurge in the production of consumer goods. We must adopt positive measures to improve and reinforce the light industry factories, modernize them, and increase the production of chemical fibres, synthetic resin and other materials for light industry. In this way, we will operate all the light industry factories at full capacity and maintain a high and steady rate of production. All the sectors and units ranging from those in the large-scale central light industry to those in the medium and small-scale local industry and those engaged in the production of "August 3 consumer goods" must produce various kinds of consumer goods in large quantities, increase their variety and improve their qualities radically.

In order to adapt foreign trade to the changed circumstances and develop it, we must cultivate new foreign markets in every possible way and build up an unquestionable reputation. We must strengthen the bases for the production of export goods in many sectors of the national economy, increase their production and improve their qualities. All the sectors and regions must further boost export by exploring and using the resources for export and also develop processing trade.

In order to develop agriculture and light industry and accelerate economic construction throughout the country, we must put efforts into the coal, electric power and metal industries and find a better solution to the problem of rail transport. The coal and electric power industries must make effective use of the existing production bases and create more production capacity in order to increase coal and power production greatly. We must strengthen the material and technical foundations of the railways, organize and direct transportation meticulously, lay heavy-duty rails extensively and satisfy the ever-increasing demands of the national economy for transport.

All the economic sectors and units must launch a vigorous campaign for increased production and economy as a mass movement and make effective use of the existing labour, equipment and materials. They must tap potential reserves to the full to increase production to the maximum.

All the economic officials must organize economic work and direct production efficiently in accordance with the party's economic strategy. They must give full rein to the people's revolutionary enthusiasm and creative activity and encourage them to overfulfill this year's national economic plan.

Our intellectuals have an honourable duty to contribute their scientific knowledge and skills to socialist construction. Adhering to our party's policy of cultural revolution, they must strive devotedly to make new advances in science, education, literature and art, public health and all other fields of developing socialist culture.

This year, too, we must naturally put efforts into strengthening the country's defence power to counter the enemy's moves to provoke war. We must be fully prepared politically and ideologically, militarily and materially, to deal with any contingency on our initiative; we must establish a social climate of regarding military affairs as important and assisting the People's Army whole-heartedly.

In order to push ahead with the revolution and construction in the present situation, we must hold fast to our party's policy of the ideological revolution, further strengthen the single-hearted unity of the revolutionary ranks and fully display the revolutionary spirit of selfreliance.

Single-hearted unity and self-reliance are imperishable, glorious traditions of our revolution as well as the banner

of victory. With the strength of single-hearted unity we have broken through harsh trials and opened up a brilliant road of victory; with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance we have overcome all difficulties and brought about great changes in the revolution and construction. When all the people are united with a single heart behind the party and the leader and fight courageously, displaying a high revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, we can defend and develop the socialism of our own style for ever in whatever trials and accomplish the socialist cause of chuche victoriously.

We must defend like the apple of our eye the singlehearted unity of our revolutionary ranks that has been cemented rock-solid under the leadership of our party and consolidate and develop it further.

We must display higher the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, break through difficulties in our way and effect a fresh upsurge in the building of socialism. "Let us accelerate vigorously the general march of socialism in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude" this is the call of our party and the militant slogan which our people must uphold today. All the officials, party members and other working people must, in hearty response to the party's militant call, make continued innovations and uninterrupted advance in the spirit of Chollima spurred by the "speed of the '90s" and make the new year 1994 a year of historic advance in the revolution and construction in our country.

To reunify the country is the supreme task of our nation which must not be delayed. We must accomplish the cause of national reunification as soon as possible, so as to meet the unanimous, ardent desire of the entire nation and hand down the reunified country to our posterity.

With a view to paving the way to national reunification by the united effort of the nation, our party and the government of our Republic put forward "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" last year and made all our efforts to put it into effect. This 10-point programme embodies the noble desire of our 70 million compatriots to achieve a solid unity of the whole nation transcending the difference in ideology, ideal and system and realise reunification and prosperity of our nation with a long history of five thousand years. We hoped the South Korean authorities to take the road of reconciliation and cooperation in response to our 10-point programme of great national unity, we also made an important proposal for an exchange of top-level special envoys between the two sides.

But the South Korean authorities have taken the path of dependence on foreign forces, not national independence, and of confrontation between North and South, not national unity, by ignoring our magnanimous proposal and the desire of the entire nation for reunification. They have staged large-scale military exercises against our Republic frequently in collusion with foreign

forces and have been jeopardizing North-South relations by clamouring for "military counteraction" and an "international cooperation system" on the pretext of our "nuclear problem."

The so-called "civilian" regime in South Korea is only a disguise; in fact it does not differ from the successive military dictatorial regimes. The evil anti-communist fascist laws still remain intact in South Korea, and the desire of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and national reunification is not fulfilled. It is natural that the South Korean people and public figures say that there is no need to watch the present South Korean regime any longer and that they have nothing to expect from it.

As for our "nuclear problem" about which the United States and her lackeys are making a fuss, it is the product of the obstinate maneuvers of the United States against socialism and our Republic. It is the United States that has created the fictitious "doubt about nuclear development by the North", and it is the United States that has actually shipped nuclear weapons into the Korean peninsula and have been threatening us. Therefore, the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula must on any account be settled through Korea-U.S. talks.

Pressure or threat will have no effect on us; such an attempt may invite catastrophe, far from finding a solution to the problem. The United States must see all the fact squarely and behave with prudence. Since a joint statement has been adopted by Korea and the United States, the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula can be settled fairly if both sides keep and implement the principles that have been agreed upon.

The principles and the line of our party and the government of our Republic on national reunification remain unchanged. In future, too, we will make every effort to reunify the country in the form of confederation which is based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

The destiny of the motherland is immediately the destiny of the nation, as well as the destiny of all our compatriots at home and abroad. All the Korean people in the North, in the South and abroad must launch a nationwide struggle, rallied as one under the banner of great unity of the whole nation, and open a new phase for national reunification this year.

The imperialists are now blustering on the international arena by vociferating about the "end" of socialism, but they cannot arrest the people's aspiration to independence, sovereignty and socialism nor can they turn back the trend of history. If the world progressive people push forward historical progress by strengthening unity and solidarity under the banner of independence against imperialism, they will be able to shape a bright future of mankind at an earliest date without fail.

Our party and the government of our Republic will consistently implement the foreign policy of independence, peace and friendship in keeping with the requirements of the present situation. On the principle of independence we will make positive efforts to unite with socialist countries and non-aligned countries and develop good neighbourly relations also with capitalist countries which respect the sovereignty of our country. The government of our Republic will work hard to abolish the old international political and economic orders of domination and subordination, establish new ones on the basis of equality, justice and fairness and develop South-South cooperation on the principle of collective self-reliance.

Our people's struggle today is arduous, but it is a noble and honourable struggle for the prosperity of our country and for the future of mankind. Our people who are fighting for the just cause under the leadership of the great party will always emerge victorious.

Let all of us fight on vigorously to achieve a new success in socialist construction and hasten the independent and peaceful reunification of the country, united rock-solid behind the party Central Committee under the unfurled banner of the chuche idea.

Daily Hails Kim Il-song's New Year Address

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[NODONG SINMUN 2 January editorial: "Let Us Accelerate the General Onward March of Socialism of Our Own Style by Highly Upholding the Banner of Single-Hearted Unity and Self-Reliance"]

[Text] A new year, 1994, full of hope has begun. Today our people are welcoming the new year overflowing great pride and faith of brilliantly advocating and adhering to socialism of our own style amid rigorous trials.

Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, delivered a historical New Year address to all the people on the occasion of the new year, 1994. In the New Year address, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song proudly summed up the results of last year's struggle of firmly adhering to the fortress of socialism of our own style through the might of single-hearted unity, and presented militant tasks that our party and people must adhere to in the new year.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Ilsong's New Year address is a beacon brilliantly elucidating the future of our people, who are accelerating the general onward march of socialism of our own style, an immortal program calling on the whole nation to carry out the sacred cause of the fatherland's reunification, and a militant banner that vigorously takes the initiative in the independent cause of our era.

The respected and beloved leader's New Year address is currently inspiring all the party members and workers with faith and fighting spirit of the invincibility of the cause of socialism of our own style and is vigorously imparting them with the responsibility to achieve a new victory by single-heartedly uniting around the party and the leader.

In 1993, our party and the people vigorously displayed the justness of the independent revolutionary line and the might of the chuche Korea through the might of single-hearted unity.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The year 1993 was a historical year that vigorously displayed the justness of our party's independent revolutionary line and the might of the chuche Korea.

Last year our party and people resolutely smashed [chitbusyoborigo] the vicious challenges and aggressive maneuvers of the enemies and honorably defended the dignity and security of the socialist fatherland. This was the greatest victory achieved by our party and people last year.

Last year our country was in an extremely acute situation. The imperialists and reactionaries isolated and suffocated our Republic and strengthened unprecedented offensives in the fields of politics, economics, military, and diplomacy to crush [apsal] our socialist cause.

Our people vigorously launched into the struggle to safeguard the nation's sovereign rights and revolutionary gains as one by bearing in their hearts the indomitable faith and will given by the party and the leader and successively achieved victories in the political and military confrontations with the enemies.

Last year's struggle clearly showed that nothing can squelch the resolute will and faith of our people, who are moving toward the one road of chuche with firm faith only in their party and their leader. Thus, 1993 will be brilliantly recorded in our people's revolutionary struggle history as a year of victory in our party's revolutionary line and as a great year of victory of single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses.

The last year of the Third Seven-Year Plan was brilliantly decorated by achieving great progress in all fields of socialist construction. This was an important achievement fulfilled by our people last year.

Our people resolutely overcame great difficulties and barriers facing economic construction, increased the productive capacity of our chuche industry on the whole during the period of the Third Seven-Year Plan, further strengthened its self-dependence, provided a solid basis in agricultural production to achieve bumper crops forever, and built many monumental creations elucidating the era of the Workers' Party.

Today, the communist virtue of helping and guiding each other throughout the society and sharing joys and sorrows is beautifully blossoming, and all the people are enjoying a worthwhile and happy life without any social uneasiness. This is a clear manifestation of the superiority of socialism of our own style.

All the victories and results achieved in the revolution and construction last year by our people are a brilliant fruition of the wise leadership of the party and the leader leading our revolutionary cause toward the evervictorious road under the banner of the chuche idea.

The leadership of the party and the leader [suryong] is a banner for the victory of socialism of our own style and a fundamental source for the prosperity of chuche Korea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, with deep insights into the prevailing situation facing the revolution, have presented sagacious strategies and tactics in a timely manner and led the entire party and all the people to new exploits and victories.

Having an iron will and belief and firm fidelity to revolutionary principles are important characteristics of the leadership of the party and the leader [suryong]. When the fatherland and revolution were faced with stern trials and when a touch-and-go situation prevailed, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander, took the resolute self-defensive measure of declaring a state of semi-war in the entire country and had all the people and the entire Army meet the enemy's antirevolutionary offensives head-on by launching revolutionary offensives. He also vigorously led all the people to the grand onward march to glorify the 40th anniversary of the victory in the fatherland liberation war as a grand festival of the victors.

The fact that we won a victory last year in a fierce confrontation to defend the country's destiny and the nation's supreme interests is unthinkable apart from our party's firm belief and incomparable boldness. Outstanding wisdom, scientific insights, and a tested organizational capability are important features of our party's leadership.

Last year, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il released "Abuses of Socialism Are Intolerable" and numerous other documents and, thus, further developed and enriched a theory on building chuche-oriented socialism and clearly elucidated the road of the socialist cause of our era.

He presents revolutionary economic strategies to comply with actual requirements for socialist construction, enhances the militant functions of party organizations of various levels, scores new upsurges in economic construction, and organizes and mobilizes the entire party and all the people by using powerful militant slogans. His extraordinary leadership in the party is matchless.

Recalling the struggle of last year when we brought about the most brilliant victory amid the sternest trial, we have come to cherish deep in our hearts the indomitable belief that as long as the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who has an iron will and tested leadership, leads us, we can win a fight with any enemy and complete building socialism of our own style to the end.

The New Year 1994 is a year of revolutionary change in which socialist construction will enter a new stage of development and a year of worthwhile struggle in which the entire party, the entire country, and all the people must stand up to score revolutionary great upsurges in all fronts.

In hearty response to the militant call of the party and the leader [suryong], all party members and workers must continue making innovations and advancements in the spirit of Chollima spurred on by the speed of the nineties and, thus, make the New Year 1994 a historic year of change in revolution and construction in our country.

The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We must consolidate and develop our achievements in socialist construction and win greater new victories. By so doing, we must glorify the popular masses-centered socialism of our country and more highly fly the banner of chuche socialism.

The international environment facing our revolution today is still complicated and tense, and we are building socialism amid a tense confrontation with the enemy.

In compliance with the prevailing situation and the demand for the development of our revolution as the great leader elucidated in his New Year address, we must thoroughly implement the revolutionary line of independence, self-sufficiency, and self-reliant defense; vigorously carry out the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and, thus, further strengthen the country's political, economic, and military strength.

Our party's revolutionary economic strategy put forward at the 21st plenary session of the Sixth Party Central Committee is a most just and revolutionary line for consolidating the nation's self-reliant economic foundations and for further upgrading the people's living standard in keeping with the demand of socialism.

When this strategy is thoroughly implemented, the superiority of our-style socialism will be more vigorously displayed and we will occupy a new stronghold for offensive.

This year we should continue to firmly adhere to agriculture-first, light industry-first, and trade-first policy. This year, which marks the 30th anniversary of publication of the socialist rural thesis, we should vigorously carry out the struggle to accomplish historic tasks of rural thesis and should effect a new turn in development of the rural economy. Thus, we should fulfill the lofty target of grain production set forth by the party without fail.

At the same time, by vigorously accelerating light industry revolution, we should register great innovations

in the production of consumer goods and should develop external trade in compliance with changed circumstances.

For us to vigorously accelerate the nation's overall economic construction by developing agriculture and light industry, we should direct strength at coal, electric power, and metal industries, and should find a solution to the problem of rail transport.

For us to successfully carry out economic construction tasks facing us this year, we should vigorously wage the struggle for increasing production and conservation in all domains and units as a mass movement. At the same time, economic guidance functionaries should carry out economic organizational work and production command in compliance with the demand of the party's economic strategy.

By upholding the party's cultural revolution policy, intellectuals should devotedly struggle to effect a new development in all domains of socialist cultural construction.

This year we should further strengthen the nation's defense capabilities by upholding the leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, our supreme commander.

All the people and officers and men of the People's Army must be fully prepared politically and ideologically, militarily and materially, to deal with any contingency on our initiative, and must establish a social climate of regarding military affairs as important and assisting the People's Army whole-heartedly.

What is most important in vigorously pushing ahead with revolution and construction at present is to further strengthen the single-hearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses and to highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance.

Single-hearted unity and self-reliance are imperishable, glorious traditions of our revolution, as well as the banner of victory. The history of the Korean revolution is the history of single-hearted unity and the history of self-reliance. With the strength of single-hearted unity our people have broken through harsh trials and opened up a brilliant road of victory and with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance we have overcome all difficulties and brought about great changes in the revolution and construction.

Today our single-hearted unity has been firmly consolidated with the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as its center. The ever-victorious indomitable road of the socialist cause is in the firm ideological and moral unity with the party and the leader based on will and principle.

All party members and working people should hold the leader [yongdoja] in high esteem with the sense of loyalty and should actively defend and protect him. They should regard the ideas and lines put forward by the leader [yongdoja] as most just ones and should thoroughly implement them under any condition and circumstance.

Thus, we should consolidate the single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks, which has been firmly cemented rock-solid under the leadership of our party, and with the strength of such unity, we should vigorously push ahead with the socialist cause of our own style.

Self-reliance and arduous struggle are traditional spirits of the struggle of our people, who are carrying out the revolution and who are a revolutionary banner for successfully building socialism of our own style.

"Let us accelerate vigorously the general march of socialism in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude." This is the call of our party and the militant slogan our people must uphold today.

When we advance by upholding this slogan, we can tenaciously defend and protect our-style socialism by crushing various challenges and disturbance maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries. We can resolve all problems raised in the socialist construction with our own strength under any condition, no matter how difficult.

Just as in the postwar Chollima great upsurge period, we must more highly display the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude and must effect a new upsurge in socialist construction by breaking through all difficulties.

To reunify the country without fail in the nineties and to hand over the reunified fatherland to future generations are the supreme tasks of the nation.

The principles and line of our party and the government of the Republic to establish a unified state in the manner of confederation based on one country and one state and two systems and two governments remain unchanged.

All Korean compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas should firmly unite as one, transcending the differences in ideologies, systems, and religions under the banner of the 10-point program of great unity of the whole country and should subjugate everything to the cause of national reunification.

We should smash at every step aggressive and interfering maneuvers of outside forces with the strength of unity of all people who want reunification and want to live under democracy with patriotism. As members of the Korean state, those who have strength, knowledge, and money, should make characteristic contributions to the cause of national reunification with strength, knowledge, and money respectively. Thus, this year we should open a new phase in the struggle for national reunification.

The United States and its followers should look straight at today's realities in which the spirit of national reunification is being enhanced higher than ever before, and should act with discretion. They should discard the anachronistic way of thinking to handle the Korean issue from the standpoint of strength.

Pressure or threat will have no effect on us; such an attempt may invite catastrophe, far from finding a solution to the problem.

The imperialists are now blustering on the international arena by vociferating about the end of socialism, but they cannot arrest the people's aspiration to independence, sovereignty, and socialism, nor can they turn back the trend of history.

In the new year, just as in the past, we will unite with socialist countries based on the principle of independence, and will make active efforts to unite with non-aligned countries. We will develop good neighborly relations with the capitalist countries that respect our nation's sovereignty.

Upon hearing the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's New Year address, our people's revolutionary zeal and spirit of struggle are very high.

All party organizations should aggressively carry out the organizational and political works to brilliantly achieve rewarding tasks in the new year.

Party organizations at all levels should infiltrate the New Year address made this year by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song deep into party members and working people, and should vigorously organize and lead them to the struggle to accomplish tasks put forward in the New Year address.

Our revolution is an ever-victorious indomitable revolution that advances with the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song as its vanguard and by following the leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

We have loyal people and one-a-match-for-100 revolutionary Armed Forces who are firmly rallied behind the party and the leader [suryong]. We also have a mighty self-reliant socialist national economy that enables us to survive with our own strength under any circumstance.

A political and ideological offensive, an economic blockade, and a military threat by the imperialists and reactionaries, cannot block our people's advance forward. Although our people's struggle today is arduous, it is a glorious and sacred struggle for prosperity and development of our nation and for the future of mankind.

Let us all more vigorously fight to accomplish the socialist cause of our own style in firm unity with the party Central Committee headed by the respected Comrade Kim Il-song by upholding the banner of the chuche idea.

Daily on Tasks Set During Kim Il-song Speech SK0301110094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with an editorial article on

the highly important tasks for the promotion of the country's reunification set by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address.

It calls upon all the Korean people in the North, the South and overseas to wage a nationwide struggle, united under the banner of great national unity, thus making this year that opens a new phase of national reunification.

It quotes Comrade Kim Il-song as saying in his New Year address:

"The principles and the line of our party and the government of our Republic on national reunification remain unchanged. In future, too, we will make every effort to reunify the country in the form of confederation which is based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments, on the three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity."

The article says:

Our party and the DPRK Government did every possible effort last year to implement the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation. But their effort was fruitless due to the anti- national, anti-reunification belligerent moves of the South Korean authorities.

As the South Korean reality indicates, the "civilian regime" is only a disguise. It does not differ from the successive military dictatorial regimes which had been indulged in treacheries.

With the Kim Yong-sam fascist "regime" left intact, it would not be possible to achieve national reconciliation and unity, peace and peaceful reunification, nor would it be possible for the South Korean people to free themselves from the colonial yokes. It would result only in confrontation and war between the fellow countrymen.

To check the clamour raised by the United States and its lackeys under the pretext of the "suspicion of the North's nuclear arms development" is a crucial matter to be solved either for peace and reunification of the Korean peninsula or for the international justice.

The nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula must on any account be solved through DPRK-U.S. talks.

Pressure or threat will have no effect on us. Such an attempt may invite catastrophe, far from finding a solution to the problem.

The United States must act with discretion, aware of its responsibility and position as the very one that caused the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula, and come out to the talks with sincere willingness and fair attitude.

The three principles of independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity which we have consistently maintained constitute the nation's common reunification programme most fair and aboveboard which fully accords with the Korean people's demand for independence and their fundamental interests. The form of confederation is the most realistic and reasonable reunification formula which reflects the specific conditions of the country where different ideologies and systems exist.

We will as ever make all efforts to reunify the country through confederacy based on one nation, one state, two systems and two governments on the afore-said three principles in accordance with the policy of national reunification put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

All the people concerned for the destiny of the country and the nation, whether they be in the North or South or abroad, whether they be communists or nationalists, haves or have-nots, atheists or theists, must unite with each other as the same nation, transcending all the differences, and pave the way of national reunification with concerted efforts.

Leaders Attend New Year Celebration in Pyongyang

SK0101105594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2113 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Excerpts] A grand new year celebration for 1994 took place in the presence of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

In the presence of Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, a splendid celebration to greet the new year of 1994 was held at the Pyongyang indoor stadium on 31 December. [passage omitted]

Comrade O Chin-u, member of the Political Bureau Presidium of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and minister of the People's Armed Forces; Comrade Kang Song-san, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and premier of the Administration Council; Comrades Yi Chong-ok, Pak Song-chol and Kim Yong-chu, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice presidents; Vice President Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Yong-nam, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee, deputy premier and foreign minister of the Administration Council; Comrade Choe Kwang, member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army [KPA]; Comrades Kye Ung-tae, Chon Pyong-ho, and Hang Song-yong, members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretaries of the party Central Committee; Comrade Kim Chol-man, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and secretary of the party Central Committee; Comrades Choe Yong-nim, Hong Song-nam, and Kang Hui-won, candidate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK

Central Committee and vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Comrade Hong Sok-hyong, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and chairman of the State Planning Commission; Comrades Kim Chung-nin, So Kwan-hui, Hwang Chang-yop, Kim Ki-nam, and Kim Yong-sun, secretaries of the WPK Central Committee; Comrades Kim Pok-sin, Kim Chang-chu, Kim Yun-hyok, Kim Hwan, and Chang Chol, vice premiers of the Administration Council; Comrade Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the State Inspection Commission of the Central People's Committee [CPC]; Comrade Yun Ki-pok, chairman of the CPC Economic Policy Commission; Comrade Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Committee; Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; members and candidate members of the WPK Central Committee; deputies to the SPA; responsible functionaries from party, government, administration and economic organizations, public organizations and central organizations; responsible functionaries from science, education, culture, art, public health, publication and press domains; generals of the KPA; anti-Japanese revolutionary fighters; bereaved families of revolutionary martyrs; scientists, meritorious workers; KPA soldiers; and workers, youth and students of the city, attended the new year celebration.

Comrade Yi In-mo, the carnation of faith and will, also attended the celebration. [passage omitted]

KCNA on New Year Celebration

SK0101103894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 1 (KCNA)—A New Year celebration for 1994 took place at the Pyongyang indoor stadium Friday [31 December] with a large attendance in the presence of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

Letters reading "A Happy New Year" and a pine gate were seen at the stadium. Set up there was the New Year stage decorated with electric light which was gorgeous with festive lanterns, large models of snowman inscribed with the letters "1993" and "1994", a decoration representing a bumper harvest, and so on.

When President Kim Il-song arrived in the stadium, school children extended him greetings of best wishes for longevity and presented a bouquet of fragrant flowers to him.

He met with school youth and children who had distinguished themselves in preparing themselves mentally, morally and physically, students who had contributed to developing the nation's science and technology, sportsmen and sportswomen who had exalted the honor of the country at international games, working youths, People's Army soldiers and students who had set examples in bringing beautiful communist traits into full play. He expressed deep satisfaction with their achievements and posed for a souvenir picture with them.

The New Year celebration was attended by O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and minister of People's Armed Forces; Premier Kang Song-san, Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Vice-President Pak Song-chol and Vice-President Kim Yongchu who are Politburo members of the C.C. [Central Committee], WPK; Vice- President Kim Pyong-sik who is chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; and other senior party and government officials, members and alternate members of the C.C., WPK, deputies to the Supreme People's Assembly, leading officials of party and power bodies, administrative and economic organs, public organizations and central organs, leading men of science, education, culture and art, health and the press, generals of the Korean People's army, anti-Japanese revolutionary veterans, bereaved families of revolutionary martyrs, scientists, people of meritorious services, People's Army soldiers, working people and school youth and children in the city.

Yi In-mo, the incarnation of faith and will, was present there.

Also present were Kwon Sun-hwi, vice-chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean residents in Japan (Chongnyon), Koreans from abroad including the members of delegations and visiting groups of Chongnyon and the chief of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) in Pyongyang.

Diplomatic envoys of various countries and embassy officials and foreigners staying here were invited.

When President Kim Il-song mounted the box amidst warm welcome of the participants, school children made their bow to him in New Year's greetings.

The colorful and joyous program consisted of the stage of pride, the stage of best wishes, mass dance, the stage of laughter, merry and amusements, etc., performed by school youth and children, Korean school children from Japan, people of various strata, People's Army soldiers and artistes.

The performers well represented on a vivid artistic canvas the revolutionary spirit and indomitable will of the Korean people and younger generation who exalted 1993 as a year of glory, a year of victory, and advanced the cause of socialism despite the persistent moves of the imperialists and reactionaries to isolate and stifle the DPRK, the bastion of socialism.

They also sang in a high-pitched tone of the worth of life and happiness the Korean working people, school youth and children are enjoying under the most advantageous socialist system without any worries, helping and leading each other forward.

The participants in the New Year celebration pledged allegiance, determined to triumphantly accomplish the revolutionary cause of chuche by consolidating the achievements made in the fulfillment of the Third Seven-Year Plan and effecting another great revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction, united behind the party and the leader in one mind.

Kim Il-song Meets Party, Organization Officials

SK0201113294 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1100 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] On the New Year, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song met with responsible functionaries of political parties and organizations [chejongdang tanche] and arranged a luncheon for them.

Comrade Kim Il-song, the great leader of our party and people, today met with responsible functionaries of political parties and organizations on the New Year.

Present there were Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Korean Social Democratic Party Central Committee; Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Yu Mi-yong, chairman of Chondoist Chongu Party Central Committee; Yo Yon-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland; Paek In-chun, chairman of the Central Committee of General Federation of Unions of Literature and Arts of Korea; Kang Yong-sop, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Union; Pak Tae-ok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhists Union, and responsible functionaries from political parties and organizations.

At the meeting, responsible functionaries of political parties and organizations respectfully extended New Year's greetings to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and wished him good health and long life.

Expressing thanks for this, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song held warm talks with them and arranged a luncheon for them.

KCNA on Kim Il-song Appearance

SK0301053594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song Sunday met with the leading officials of political parties and organisations on the New Year.

Present there were Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly; Yu Mi-yong, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party; Yo Yon-ku, presidium member of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland; Paek In-chun, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Art of Korea; Kang Yong-sop, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Christians Federation; Pak Tae-ho, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhist Federation; and other leading officials of political parties and organisations.

On the occasion the leading officials of political parties and organisations extended greetings to President Kim Il-song on the New Year and wished the leader a long life in good health.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and had a cordial conversation with them before hosting a luncheon.

SKNDF Sends New Year Message to Kim Il-song

SK0101123594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 1 Jan 94

["Text" of New Year's greetings from the South Korean National Democratic Front Central Committee to Kim Il-song issued in Seoul on 1 January]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song received a congratulatory message greeting the new year of 1994 from the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] Central Committee.

The message reads: To the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation:

We rang out a year of rewarding struggle in which we advanced along the chuche banner and are greeting the hopeful new year of 1994. The SKNDF Central Committee respectfully sends the first greeting of wishing the great leader long life with the consistent expressions of congratulations by all the vanguard fighters and patriotic masses of various strata of the South.

The last year of 1993 was a historic year in which national prestige of the chuche Korea was exalted further in the entire world under the outstanding leadership of the great leader and in which a new advance was made in the struggle of the 70 million fellow countrymen for national reunification. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who adds luster to the chuche chronicles with his unequalled exploits, made brilliant achievements for the times and mankind last year with his deep insight into the rapidly changing situational demands and with his energetic ideological and theoretical activities and great practice of the revolution.

Last year was marked by the culmination of the antisocialist maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries to isolate, stifle [chilsik], and crush [apsal] the Northern half of the country and pull down the socialist fortress. The great leader overcame and made a breakthrough in the manifold difficulties and trials with his tested leadership, ever-victorious wisdom and strategy, and the might of the wholehearted unity of the leader, the party, and the masses, thus powerfully demonstrating to the entire world the justness and invincibility of the chuche socialist cause.

The celebrations marking the 40th anniversary of the 7 July war victory, which were grandly observed amid great admiration of the people at home and abroad, were great festivities of both our nation and mankind that built up as an everlasting historical monument the immortal achievements of the respected and beloved leader, who leads the cause of independence and the cause of socialism of our times along the ever-victorious road. They were a great epic, which vividly proved the chuche truth that the people who pioneer their destiny independently and creatively, upholding the great leader and under the leadership of the leader, are ever-victorious.

With the noble idea of believing in the people as in heaven, the great leader has devoted his entire life to the masses, setting off on a life journey—boarding a massoriented train. Everywhere he gave sacred on-the-spot guidance, which he gave so many times last year, miracles and innovations were brought forth, enabling the brethren in the North to brilliantly conclude the final year of the Third Seven-Year Plan in the unprecedented world economic recession and achieved the triumphant bumper crop, thus providing the firm foundation of self-reliant economy.

The 21st plenary meeting of the Sixth Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee, which proudly summed up the Third Seven-Year Plan and put forth the revolutionary economic strategy, marked another resplendent chapter in the glorious history of the WPK, which victoriously pioneers the hitherto-uncultivated chuche socialism under the tested leadership of the great leader and the dear comrade leader. In the land of the North, where the great leader's politics of benevolence is in full bloom, all the people enthusiastically put into practice last year the noble, beautiful traits of devoting themselves silently to the party, the leader, the group, and comrades without seeking any honor or compensation. Thus, the North society highly demonstrated its prestige as the crystal of wholehearted loyalty and filial duty and as a solid sociopolitical living organism.

Last year, when there was the acute and serious confrontation between socialism and capitalism, the great leader firmly held the control lever of history and elucidated clearly the direction and position of the times, thus enabling the world's progressive people to advance continuously along the road of anti-imperialist cause for independence and of the movement of rebuilding socialism.

The great leader, who is the lodestar of the fatherland's reunification, presented last year the 10-point program

of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the fatherland, which is comprehensive of the lofty spirit of nation-loving and national independence, thus vigorously arousing the 70 million fellow countrymen to the struggle to realize the cause of the fatherland's reunification in the nineties.

The great leader has verified Tangun as the originator of our nation, who actually lived, thus hardening the belief of all fellow countrymen that they are a unitary nation inheriting a 5,000-year history and enabling them to achieve national harmony and great unity.

With boundless happiness and pride in living and struggling with the great leader as the sun of the nation, we stoutly carried out the patriotic struggle to pioneer the nation's destiny last year.

Our masses in the South made a counterattack on the antidemocratic, antinational, and antireunification group, which has strangled democracy with feigned reforms, taken pro-United States and pro-Japanese flunkeyism and betrayal of the nation to intensify its subordination, and pushed South-North relations to the dangerous situation on the brink of war by pursuing anticommunism and anti-North confrontation since the military dictatorship turned into the civilian fascism. By doing so, they have unveiled the current regime's mask of a civilian government and deepened the crisis of the colonial fascist system.

Through our struggle in a grave situation last year, we came to bear even more firmly the faith that we will achieve the victory of the cause of independence, democracy, and reunification without fail as long as we have the great leader and the immortal chuche idea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song is indeed a benevolent sun that leads our SKNDF and other patriotic masses of various circles to ceaselessly follow the patriotic road to independence, democracy, and reunification under the banner of struggle, without wavering in the colonial fascist forces' persistent temptation and unyielding under any outrageous reactionary offensive, no matter how giddily the dirty flood of betrayal and reform overflows from the countries where capitalism has been rehabilitated. The immortal chuche idea is a brilliant beacon for pioneering our destinies.

In the new year, we will accelerate modeling the SKNDF and the ranks of the movement for changes after the chuche idea, under the brilliant chuche rays and substantially carry out work to make the masses in various classes and strata have consciousness and to organize them by using the respected and beloved leader's memoir. By doing so, we will strengthen the independent main forces of the national and democratic movement in every way.

We will imminently and daringly organize and carry out the mass struggle to smash the current traitorous regime that pursues flunkeyism, nation-selling, and war, so that we can mature the situation of the movement for changes on our own initiative. We will also create a wind of nationwide advance for independent reunification, upholding the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the fatherland, and will make 1994 a historic year of national reconciliation and unity.

Although the road of struggle is arduous and formidable, our just cause will obtain victory without fail as long as the great leader exists and the chuche banner vigorously flies at the front.

This morning of the new year when the ardor of admiring and following the chuche sun is filled in every place, the SKNDF Central Committee conveys the wish of all the vanguard fighters and masses of various classes and strata in the South for the longevity of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song who is a peerless patriot, a legendary hero, and the father of the nation.

[Signed] The SKNDF Central Committee [Issued] 1 January 1994, Seoul

SKNDF Message to Kim Chong-il

SK0201061494 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0200 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received a congratulatory message greeting the new year of 1994 from the South Korean National Democratic Front [SKNDF] Central Committee.

The message reads:

To dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, the sagacious leader [yongmyonghan chidoja] of the nation:

Under the brilliant sun of guidance, an age-shaking year of excitement ended and the hopeful new year 1994 has broken. On this breaking morning of the new year, the SKNDF Central Committee respectfully sends the first greeting of longevity to Comrade Kim Chong-il, who is the sagacious leader of the nation, the great leader [yongsu] of the chuche cause, and a talented military strategist whom the fellow countrymen and all human beings admire, with the consistent wishes of hearty congratulations by all the vanguard fighters and masses of various strata in the South.

The past year of 1993 was a meaningful year when the sagacious leader Comrade Kim Chong-il was elected chairman of the DPRK National Defense Commission and when the 40th anniversary of the 27 July war victory was brilliantly decorated with a grand festival of victors. It was also an honorable year when the world was shocked by mankind's admiration and epochal hymns for the immortal achievements registered by the dear leader in 1993.

With his insightful and farseeing wisdom, the sagacious comrade leader, an outstanding leader [yongsu], presented the chuche Korea's policy to overcome piled difficulties and trials. He also consolidated the entire

party, all the people, and the entire Army as a pure social and political living body filled with loyalty and filial piety, thus demonstrating the invincibility of the massesoriented, unique socialism.

The sagacious comrade leader, an outstanding military genius, defeated and smashed the enemy's isolating, suffocating, and crushing maneuver [chokturui korip chilsik apsal chaektongul kyokpa punswaehasigo] and registered the outstanding feat of brilliantly protecting the national dignity and the country's interests by using his peerless talented wisdom, matchless braveness, and iron-strong will last year when the strong anti-Republic and antisocialist wind created by the allied imperialist forces blew unprecedentedly harshly.

The more unscrupulous was the revilement of the imperialists and their puppets, who had been pushed into a pitfall of successive defeats, the more the northern half of the fatherland increased the speed of the general onward march of socialism of our own style, upholding the banner of self-relience and fortitude, thus victoriously accomplishing the Third Seven-Year Plan. The North's farmlands, where the chuche farming method advanced, won a victory of achieving bumper crops. All this was possible thanks to the sagacious comrade leader and his seasoned leadership.

At the end of last year, when the North's nuclear issue was mentioned again in Washington and Seoul was frantically attempting to crushing fellow countrymen while adhering to the international cooperation system, Pyongyang, unlike Seoul, presented revolutionary economic strategies based on the result of summing up the fulfillment of the Third Seven-Year Plan and discussed and decided upon the issue of correctly inheriting the nation's cultural legacies, which had been presented as an important state affair, thus striking the people of the world with admiration.

From the very composed and peace-oriented attitude of the northern half of the fatherland, we could see an overwhelming victory of the denuclearization policy over the U.S. nuclear war policy [haekchonjaeng chongchaek] as well as the infinite vigor of the chuche economic and cultural policies, and could realize again the valuable truth that the masses under the seasoned leadership of the outstanding leader can vigorously advance toward the prosperous future no matter how harsh are the trials they are repeatedly faced with.

The sagacious comrade leader, who is pioneering mankind's cause of independence at the forefront while stoutly grasping the rudder of the times, struck a deadly blow to the imperialists and betrayers of socialism who try to void and distort the true superiority of socialism and enabled the masses who are making efforts to rehabilitate socialism to have firm faith and will, thus making a great contribution to the development of the socialist movement.

History tells numerous legends about heroes, however we have not witnessed a leader like our sagacious leader who is an unequalled iron-willed brilliant commander and excelled politician. He has both literary and military accomplishments that are not shared by any leader of all times and places, has embroidered the history of the nation and mankind with his legendary strategies and has blocked raging storms with his own body during the period of most stern trials.

The sagacious leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is a great incarnation of the chuche politics and peerless great commander who has turned an unprecedented steep path and trials into favorable conditions overflowing with optimism, thus creating new history by turning a misfortune into a blessing. Under the wise and tested leadership of Comrade Kim Chong-il, the sagacious leader of the nation, a remarkable progress was made in the movement to reunify the fatherland in the last year.

The sagacious comrade leader opened a broad alliance road for the people wandering about in a quagmire of confrontation and mistrust by administering politics of love and trust and broad-based politics which embody the idea of believing in the people as in heaven, and aroused 70 million countrymen in the North, South, and overseas into the plaza of great unity and national reconciliation under the great banner of the 10-point program of the great national unity for the reunification of the fatherland.

Even though aggressors and traitorous cliques viciously staged anti-peace, antireunification maneuvers in the last year, our masses advanced along the road for independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland by kicking out brutal suppression of the fascists and girding up themselves with hope and grit against disappointment and frustration because the sagacious comrade leader, who supports the whole nation's immortal will and aspiration for the end of the tragedy of the fatherland division and the establishment of a confederal state in the nineties', stands firm at the head of our nation.

We are convinced of a brilliant tomorrow since we have the sagacious comrade leader as the nation's leading spirit [yongsu]. Thus, our SKNDF and other patriotic masses kindled the flame of anti-U.S.and antifascist patriotic struggle by firmly holding the chuche sword without the slightest vacillation despite the development of a grave situation in which the military dictatorship turned into civilian fascism, strangled democracy, and maximized pro-U.S. and pro-Japanese subordination and North-South confrontation.

The struggle by peasants and masses of various strata opposing the rice market opening that erupted from various parts of Pyongyang [as heard] liquidated the traitorous cliques and completely unveiled the cloak of the civilian regime worn by the current regime as the struggle developed into a nationwide movement opposing the U.S. imperialists' shameless acts of looting. As a result, the colonial fascist rule now faces a serious crisis.

Our masses, under the banner of the chuche idea, acquired deep in their hearts precious experiences during the stern course of struggle waged in the last year that, without fundamentally reforming the colonial domination system, the disgrace and misfortune of subordination and national division can never be eliminated.

In the new year, we, upholding the banner of the chuche idea, will accelerate the work to make the masses have consciousness and to organize them, and will firmly guarantee the uniformity of the leadership and idea among SKNDF ranks so that they would be firmly prepared as the main forces of reform.

We will ignite the flame of struggle against the current fascist regime and wage successive patriotic struggles to make the masses have consciousness, become independent, have democracy, and realize the 10-point program for the great national unity.

At this meaningful moment of ushering in the first morning of the new year, the SKNDF Central Committee respectfully wishes Comrade Kim Chong-il, the lodestar of the fatherland's reunification and benefactor of the nation's destiny, long life with the unanimous expression of wishes by all the vanguard fighters and patriotic masses of various classes and strata.

[Signed] The SKNDF Central Committee [Issued] 1 January 1994, Seoul

Chongnyon Chairman Greets Kim Il-song SK0201082894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809

SK0201082894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0809 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 2 (KCNA)—The great leader Generalissimo Kim II-song Saturday [1 January] received a congratulatory message from Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), on the New Year 1994.

Han Tok-su says in his message that the great leader, last year, too, with his outstanding and tested guidance, smashed the most blatant anti-DPRK racket of the imperialists at every step, resolutely defended the socialism of chuche and built a powerful military strength and laid a more solid foundation of the independent economy and, furthermore, brought about a rich harvest, thus displaying the grand appearance of the country of chuche to the world.

It notes that the great leader personally initiated the excavation of the Tomb of Tangun last year, had wisely led this work and had a decision on properly inheriting and developing the national cultural heritage adopted at the Sixth Session of the 9th Supreme People's Assembly, thereby instilling national pride into the heart of our people.

It recalls that the great leader worked out and published last year "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country", a

great political charter common to the nation, and led the entire fellow countrymen to the accomplishment of the cause of reunification through confederacy in the '90s.

Han Tok-su stresses the need to build up the Chongnyon organisation into a powerful patriotic unit rooted among the compatriots, defend to the end the socialist country of chuche centred on the popular masses, resolutely repulsing any form of suppression and persecution by the imperialists, in the New Year.

He sincerely wishes Generalissimo Kim Il-song a long life in good health.

Greets Kim Chong-il

SK0201090894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0835 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 2 (KCNA)—The dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il Saturday [1 January] received a congratulatory message from Han Tok-su, chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), on the New Year 1994.

Han Tok-su says in his message that last year the dear leader tided over the grim and rigorous situation, turned adversity into a favourable condition and wisely led the Korean people along the road of victory of the cause of chuche.

"You firmly built up the whole party, all the Army and the entire people to be a powerful driving force of the revolution united in one mind and made sure that a new upswing was effected on all fronts of socialist construction," Han Tok-su notes, and says:

"Last year you also powerfully aroused the entire fellow countrymen in the struggle to realize the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation and wisely led hundreds of millions of people who were struggling for independence against imperialism along the road of global independence".

Han states that under the tested guidance of the dear leader Chongnyon could last year more firmly unite the broad masses of compatriots and honorably carry out all the patriotic tasks including the struggle to defend the socialist country and the work of national reunification to implement the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

Han Tok-su stresses the need to firmly establish the leadership system of the dear leader in the Chongnyon organisation and further strengthen and develop the Chongnyon ranks into an unbreakable patriotic unit united in one mind.

He sincerely wishes Marshal Kim Chong-il a long life in good health.

Koreans in Japan Send Greetings to Kim Il-song SK0301112994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1056 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—The great leader Generalissimo Kim Il-song received congratulatory messages on the occasion of the New Year 1994 from the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Social Scientists in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Scientists and Technicians in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Literary Men and Artists in Japan, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Credit Associations in Japan, the Standing Council of Korean Physical Culture and Sports Federation in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese Schools, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Buddhists in Japan, the Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification and other organizations under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and its subsidiary organizations, the CHOSON SINBO office, the Kuwol Sobang publishing house, the Kumgangsan Opera Troupe, the Institute of the Korean Question, the Korea-Japan Export and Import Corporation and other enterprises, local headquarters of Chongnyon, the Central Institute of Chongnyon, Korean University and other Korean schools at all levels and Koreans in Japan.

The messages expressed the determination of the Korean residents in Japan to contribute all their efforts to the patriotic work of Chongnyon including the work for implementing the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country with the national pride of being overseas citizens who are led by the great leader and faith in the socialist mother-land of chuche.

The messages wish Generalissimo Kim Il-song good health and long life.

Greetings Sent to Kim Chong-il

SK0301103694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1017 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—Messages of greetings came to the dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il on the occasion of the New Year 1994 from the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Traders and Industrialists in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the League of Korean Youth in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Democratic Union of Korean Women in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Teachers in Japan, the Central Standing

Council of the Association of Korean Social Scientists in Japan, the Central Standing Council of the Association of Korean Scientists and Technicians in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Literary Men and Artists in Japan, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Credit Associations in Japan, the Standing Council of Korean Physical Culture and Sports Federation in Japan, the Central Standing Committee of the Union of Korean Students Studying at Japanese Schools, the Standing Council of the Federation of Korean Buddhists in Japan, the Association of Koreans in Japan for Peaceful Reunification and other organizations under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and its subsidiary organizations. Messages also came from the CHOSON SINBO office, the Kuwol Sobang publishing house, the Kumgangsan Opera Troupe, the Institute of the Korean Question, the Korea-Japan Export and Import Corporation and other enterprises, local headquarters of Chongnyon, the Central Institute of Chongnyon, Korean University and other Korean schools at all levels and Koreans in Japan.

The messages note with high appreciation that Comrade Kim Chong- il safeguarded the dignity of chuche Korea with honor last year, resolutely smashing the anti-DPRK moves of the enemy at home and abroad with unexcelled grip and distinguished wisdom.

They express the firm resolution of Japan-resident Koreans to vigorously wage the struggle for defending the rights and life of the DPRK citizens in Japan and implementing the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation.

The messages wholeheartedly wish the dear leader Marshal Kim Chong-il good health and long life for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and the accomplishment of the cause of chuche.

Foreign Leaders Greet Kim Il-song on New Year SK0201093294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0824 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 2 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, exchanged new year cards with foreign party and state leaders on the New Year 1994.

He exchanged new year cards with Deng Xiaoping, former chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and president of the People's Republic of China; Li Peng, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and premier of the State Council of the PRC; Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of

the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Li Ruihuan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Hu Jintao, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Chen Yun, former chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC; Yang Shangkun, former president of the PRC; Peng Zhen, former chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Council of State and president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba; Le Duc Anh, president of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; His Majesty King of Cambodia Norodom Sihanouk; Sultan Azlan Shah, King of Malaysia; Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat, president of the State of Mongolia; Ong Teng Cheong, president of the Republic of Singapore; Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Legari, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia; Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the Republic of Lebanon; Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; King Hussein the First of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Presidential Council of the Republic of Yemen; Jerry John Rawlings, president of the Republic of Ghana; Habyarimana Juvenal, president of the Republic of Rwanda; Albert Zafy, president of the Republic of Madagascar; Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Republic of Mozambique; Antonio Manuel Mascarenhas Gomes Monteiro, president of the Republic of Cape Verde; Valentine Esegragbo Melvin Strasser, head of state and chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council of the Republic of Sierra Leone; Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president and head of state of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea; Robert G. Mugabe, president of the Republic of Zimbabwe; Gnassingbe Eyadema, president of the Republic of Togo; Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda; Violeta Barrios De Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua; Alberto Fujimori Fujimori, president of the Republic of Peru; Queen Margrethe the Second of the Kingdom of Denmark; Ion Iliescu, president of Romania; Vincent Tabone, president of the Republic of Malta; Eddie Fenech Adami, prime minister of the Republic of Malta; Askar Akayev, president of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan; Lech Walesa, president of the Republic of Poland; L. Kravchuk, president of the Republic of Ukraine; Zoran Lilic, president of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; Phoumi Vongvichit, advisor to the Central Committee of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party; H.S. Surjeet, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India

(Marxist); Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India; Tomiichi Murayama, chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party; Farouk Dahrouj, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party; Walid Journblatt, president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon; Jean Spielmann, national president of the Workers' Party of Switzerland; and Thurmer Gyula, chairman of the Hungarian Workers' Party.

Foreign Leaders Greet Kim Chong-il

SK0201093694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0841 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 2 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il exchanged new year cards with foreign party and state leaders on the New Year 1994.

Among them were Deng Xiaoping, former chairman of the Military Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China; Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and president of the People's Republic of China; Li Peng, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and premier of the State Council of the PRC; Qiao Shi, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Li Ruihuan, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; Hu Jintao, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee; Chen Yun, former chairman of the Central Advisory Commission of the CPC; Yang Shangkun, former president of the PRC; Peng Zhen, former chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the PRC; Nouhak Phoumsavan, president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic; His Majesty King of Cambodia Norodom Sihanouk; Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Legari, president of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Arab Republic of Syria; Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation; Joaquim Alberto Chissano, president of the Republic of Mozambique; Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, president and head of state of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and founder-chairman of the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea; H.S. Urjeet, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist); Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India; Jean Spielmann, national president of the Workers' Party of Switzerland; Thurmer Gyula, chairman of the Hungarian Workers' Party; and Raul Castro Ruz, minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of the Republic of Cuba.

Heads of State, Party Leaders Greet Kim Il-song SK0301061794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505

SK0301061794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0505 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received messages of greetings from foreign heads of state and party leaders on the New Year 1994.

The messages came from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; France Albert Rene, president of the Republic of Seychelles; 'Umar Hassan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic of the Sudan; Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, amir of State of Kuwait; Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front; 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Zafy Albert, president of the Republic of Madagascar; Nina Andreyeva, general secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party; Victor Voichita, chairman of the Romanian Party for New Society; Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua; Rolf Hagel, chairman of the Workers' Party-Communists of Sweden; and B. Dashyondon, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

They extend most fervent congratulations to President Kim Il-song on the New Year and wish him good health and long life.

They express the hope that the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and their countries and between the Workers' Party of Korea and their parties would grow stronger and develop.

Greetings to Kim Chong-il

SK0301062094 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il received messages of greetings from heads of state and party leaders of different countries on the New Year 1994.

Among them are Muhammad Husni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Mohamed Abdelaziz, President of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front; Rolf Hagel, chairman of the Workers' Party-Communist of Sweden; B. Dashyondon, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party; Nina Andreyeva, general secretary of the Central Committee of the All-Union Bolshevik Communist Party; Trino Melean, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela; Genaro Ledesma

Izquieta, chairman of the People's Front of Workers, Peasants and Students of Peru; and Argelia Raya, chairperson of the Movement of Socialism of Venezuela.

Messages most warmly congratulated Comrade Kim Chong-il on the New Year and wished him good health and long life.

The messages hoped the relations of friendship and solidarity between the two countries and peoples would grow stronger.

Iranian President Greets Kim II-song on New Year

SK0301014594 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2100 GMT 2 Jan 94

[New Year message from 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to DPRK President Kim Il-song—read by announcer]

[Text] Pyongyang

Your Excellency DPRK President Kim Il-song:

I extend my New Year's greetings to Your Excellency and the DPRK people. I wish that all countries actively cooperate in the struggle to dispel oppression, achieve justice, and salvage mankind. I pray for Your Excellency's happiness and success in the New Year.

[Signed] 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran

[Dated] 28 December 1993, Tehran

KCNA Recounts Events, Achievements of 1993

SK3112053293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0456 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 30 (KCNA)—In Korea 1993 is a year full of stirring events and achievements.

The great leader President Kim Il-song said:

"Smashing every form of challenge and obstructive manoeuvres of the imperialists and reactionaries and defending our socialism and adding lustre to it are an honourable task which is raised before our party and people today."

Owing to the imperialists' political and military pressure and economic blockade to isolate and stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the bastion of socialism, an acute situation has been prevailed in Korea this year.

The resumption of the "Team Spirit" joint nuclear war exercises by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique created a touch-and-go danger which may lead to a war anytime on the Korean peninsula.

At that moment, Comrade Kim Chong-il, Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, issued an

order to the whole country, the entire people and all the army to enter a semi-war state from March 9 and aroused all the people and people's army in the noble struggle for defending Korean-style socialism centred on the popular masses.

When the imperialists and some officials of the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency under their baton unjustly tried to force a "special inspection" on the DPRK under the pretext of its fictitious "nuclear arms development," he saw to it that the DPRK declared its withdrawal from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty to safeguard the dignity of the Republic and the security of its people with honor.

Comrade Kim Chong-il who turns adversity into favorable circumstances and brings about only victory with superb strategy and penetration was elected chairman of the national defence commission of the DPRK at the fifth session of the ninth Supreme People's Assembly by the unanimous will of the Korean people and the People's Army soldiers.

This year, singlehearted unity of the Korean people around the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has been cemented remarkably.

A military parade and a one million-strong mass demonstration were held and an evening performance "we won victory" took place in the capital city of Pyongyang on July 27, the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the fatherland liberation war, in the presence of the two brilliant commanders, President Kim Il-song and Comrade Kim Chong-il.

They were a grand national festival that powerfully demonstrated the might of the single hearted unity of the Korean people who had overcome rigorous trials and the advantages and vitality of Korean-style socialism.

Voices of faith in the invincible socialism of Korean style as well as the immortal song of praise "no motherland without you" rang out of the eighth congress of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, the national conference of war veterans, the meeting of commanding officers and political commissars of the Korean People's Army, the national meeting of frontrankers in beautiful communist traits and other meetings and functions held this year.

All the voters cast their ballots for the candidates of deputies to the provincial (municipal) people's assemblies at the elections held on November 21, demonstrating again their deep trust in the people's power and the invincible might of the Korean people united in one mind around the party and the leader.

Significant achievements have been registered in socialist economic construction, too.

It was noted at the 21st plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held on December 8 that the national industrial output increased 50 percent in the period of the third seven-year

plan (1987-1993) under the grim situation which rapidly changed owing to the worldwide political fluctuation.

The workers of the coal, power and metal industries, in hearty response to the New Year address of the great leader which defined those industries as the main points of socialist economic construction, have won big successes by increasing the production capacity and updating the production processes.

Many light industrial factories have been built in different parts of the country and the existing ones modernized, with the result that a new turn has been effected in the production of consumer goods.

Bumper harvests of rice, maize, potatoes and fruits were reported from highlands in the northern part of the country, not to speak of Yonbaek, Chaeryong, Yoldusamcholli and other plains in the west coastal areas.

30,000 flats were built in Pyongyang and many dwelling houses in Hamhung, Wonsan, Sinuiju, Chongjin and other local cities and in farm villages and coal and ore miners' settlements.

This year, the tomb of Tangun in Kangdong County was unearthed to prove that Tangun was a real historical person and the Korean nation is a homogeneous nation with Pyongyang as its cradle and with a 5,000 years long history. This is another signal event that added shine to the history of the Korean nation.

Kim Yong-sam's Remarks on Nuclear Issue Decried

SK0301111594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1102 GMT 3 Jan 94

["New Year Jargon Betraying Sinister Intention"— KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Yong-sam in his "New Year address for overseas compatriots" on Saturday [1 January] again took issue with the North, grumbling that the "problem of North's suspicious development of nuclear weapons must be settled without fail", according to a radio report from Seoul.

This betrays his sinister intention to further intensify the maneuvers to do harm to and slay fellow countrymen in the new year under the pretext of the North's fictitious "nuclear development".

As already reported, both the DPRK and the United States, at a recent contact, removed a series of hurdles in the way of the DPRK-U.S. talks and brought a progress in the talks by showing mutual understanding and spirit of cooperation. The outcry obtrusively let out by the traitor Kim Yong-sam at this time cannot but be condemned as an unpardonable, despicable anti-national act.

He got an "assurance" from the United States to keep the "international cooperation system" in reward for a total opening of the rice market of South Korea during his trip to the United States in November last year. But afraid that it may burst like soap bubbles, he is vociferating about the "nuclear suspicion" of the North from the first day of the new year.

This shows that the traitor Kim Yong-sam is not interested in the DPRK-U.S. talks at all but is working with bloodshot eyes to torpedo the talks and inflict "sanctions" and put pressure on the North.

No matter how desperately he is working he cannot block the progress of the DPRK-U.S. talks whose prospects are in sight for fundamentally settling the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula.

It is obtrusive of the traitor Kim Yong-sam, who has neither a real power nor say and has been totally for-saken by the people, to say this or that over the problem to be resolved between the DPRK and the United States.

The people will never pardon such an out and out flunkeyist sycophant as the traitor Kim Yong-sam who is leading the South Korean peasants to death by opening the rice market and is working hard to do harm to fellow countrymen through the "international cooperative system".

The traitor Kim Yong-sam had better stop acting rashly, clearly mindful that the road of treacheries chosen by him leads to destruction.

Kim Yong-sam Denounced on Defense Choice

SK3112064193 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Not Separation But Collusion"]

[Text] Broadcast reports from Seoul disclosed the fact that Yi Pyong-tae, the recently appointed puppet defense minister, was a member of the Hanahoe.

The Hanahoe, a political military club at the center of criticism from every strata of South Korea, was a powerful group of fascist military hooligans basically composed of former members of the Chilsonghoe. The Chilsonghoe had consisted of seven generals—namely Chon Tu-hwan, No Tae-u, Son Yong-kil, Chong Hoyong, Kwon Ik-hyon, Choe Sung-tae, and Paek Untaek—who hailed from Kyongsang Province and graduated in the 11th class of the South Korean Military Academy.

While under the patronage of traitor Pak Chong-hui following the 16 May Coup, they changed the name of Chilsonghoe to the Hanahoe when they were pinned with the insignia of major on their shoulders. Being on the lookout to seize power, they increased membership to approximately 200.

Following this, the rascals expanded their area of influence to include all graduates between the 11th to 36th graduating class of the South Korean Military Academy. Chon Tu-hwan, No Tae-u, Chong Ho-yong, and Pak Chun-pyong, the chief culprits behind the 12 December coup and the Kwangju massacre, were Hanahoe members. Chang Se-tong, Ho Sam-su, and Ho Hwa-pyong, the henchmen to traitor Chon Tu-hwan in the Fifth Republic, were nests of the Hanahoe.

The fact that Yi Pyong-tae, who has assumed the position of puppet defense minister, was a member of the notorious secret military group shocks the South Korean people.

The appointment of Yi Pyong-tae a member of the secret group of vicious military gangsters as puppet defense minister by puppet traitor Kim Yong-sam all but shows his intention to revive the Fifth and Sixth Republics's influence and repeat the fascist suppressive rule of the Fifth and Sixth Republics in South Korea.

As everyone knows, the Kim Yong-sam group has prattled as though the Hanahoe had been broken up and took measures as though to remove Hanahoe members not only from the puppet regime, but also from the military when Traitor Kim Yong-sam raved that he would wipe out the Hanahoe members from the civilian regime, and the puppet Army announced that 10 colonels who were Hanahoe members would be excluded from promotions.

However, this was a trick to deceive the South Korean people. The chieftain of the civilian regime has not separated itself from the Fifth and Sixth Republics but are colluding with them.

With the people's spirit of resistance growing higher due to the rice market opening, traitor Kim Yong-sam attempted to appease the people's protests by means of shifting the blame onto his stooges and firing them, while naming vicious military gangsters to important posts.

These facts show that the Kim Yong-sam group has not eliminated the Fifth and Sixth Republics's forces and prove, even worse, that it drew the rascals into its civilian regime in order to resurrect the Fifth and Sixth Republics' military fascist terrorist rule.

In reality, the Kim Yong-sam group is carrying out fascist suppressive rule over the South Korean people more than ever before. On 28 December, traitor Kim Yong-sam, during his visit to the Seoul District Prosecution Office to check end-of-the-year readiness, made outbursts that he would not tolerate violent demonstrations. Even before taking office, the puppet interior minister, raved that it is okay for the investigators to torture political criminals.

By following the puppet traitor's suppressive order, South Korea is dripping with a warlike atmosphere and the people's righteous struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification are now being brutally oppressed. Needless to say, the worsening fascist suppressive maneuvers of the Kim Yong-sam group are aimed at suppressing and obliterating the people's struggle to oppose the rice market opening.

Attempting to defuse his regime's crisis, puppet traitor Kim Yong-sam named the Hanahoe group's military gangsters and fascist oppressors whom the South Korean people criticize in order to oppress and obliterate the people's antigovernment struggle. Nonetheless, this is nothing but a last-ditch resistance by one who faces a tragic end. The fascist suppression will only heighten the resistance of the people and hasten the self destruction.

Commentary Criticizes South's Yulgok Project

SK3112035393 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 29 Dec 93

[Commentary by Yun Pyong-son: "They Should Not Act Rashly"]

[Text] As soon as Yi Pyong-tae of South Korea succeeded Kwon Yong-hae as new puppet National Defense minister, he did not hesitate in revealing his warmonger's colors.

According to a report, he held a news conference on 28 December and said that the so-called modernization and science-orientation of the army are an indispensable trend and he raved that he would press ahead with the Yulgok project in the future without fail.

As everyone knows, the Yulgok project is the work to reinforce the puppet army's war capacity. The project has been promoted by Chongwadae [presidential office] and the National Defense Ministry since the mid-1970's, with a view to accelerating preparations for a war of northward invasion.

The puppets have so far expended an enormous 3 billion won for the Yulgok project, including the full-scale introduction of modern war equipment from foreign countries and the development of new weapons. In this process, the people have denounced and rejected the puppets for their abuse of funds.

The Kim Yong-sam ring revealed its inner intention to further accelerate preparations for a northward invasion war, by openly saying that the Yulgok project will be constantly promoted and that the modernization and science-orientation of the army are an indispensable trend. Our nation has clearly remembered the miserable calamities and unhappiness our fellow countrymen had to suffer when war broke out approximately 40 years ago. Thus our nation unanimously hopes for the absence of war on the Korean peninsula and the establishment of peace.

To ensure peace on the Korean peninsula, the North and the South should not conduct an arms race, but realize disarmament. Peace is inconceivable apart from disarmament. Because the North and the South have confirmed the nonaggression that the North and the South should not use armed forces against each other and not invade each other with armed forces, the issue of disarmament arises as an urgent issue that brooks no further delay. If one side takes the road to reinforce military expenditures, this will bring the result of aggravating the North-South confrontation and, thus, the outbreak of war.

The Kim Yong-sam puppet ring, raving that peace can be maintained by reinforcing strength, has increased the puppet troops, introduced hundreds of missiles from the United States, and acquired war equipment on a full scale. The Kim Yong-sam puppet ring has earmarked over one billion won for next year's military expenditure, up 9.6 percent over last year's figures.

Reinforcement of armed forces cannot abide by peace. It goes without saying that a reinforcement of armed forces is tantamount to preparing for war. Even though the Kim Yong-sam puppet ring babbles about the superiority of one's fellow countrymen over the foreign forces, it decided to constantly promote the Yulgok project which the people reject, by using the pretext of its so-called civilian- controlled regime. This clearly shows that the Kim Yong-sam puppet rings are the military rascals and warmongers of a civilian-controlled regime, not different from their predecessors that incited fever for the preparations for war. This also actually proves who really desires peace and who really schemes war on the Korean peninsula.

What cannot be tolerated is that on 24 December, the so-called puppet national defense minister ordered the puppet commanders and staff to be prepared to mobilize at any time and make full preparations to carry out operations as the year-end days draw near.

The South Korean puppet army is already alert enough for mobilization at anytime. The order to get ready for mobilization anytime is a move to ignite the fuse of a northward invasion war by further driving the situation to the brink of a war. This is an unpardonable challenge to the people's desire for peace reunification.

Peace is still being maintained on the Korean peninsula where enormous armed forces confront each other along the Military Demarcation Line and where the South Korean puppets' war maneuvers become more vicious. This is the result of our patient efforts. Even though we value peace, we will never pardon aggressors provoking us. Reinforcement of armed forces and aggravation of tension only brings the ruin of the civilian-controlled regime. The Kim Yong-sam puppet ring should clearly know nothing will be gained from the adventurous war maneuvers and should not act recklessly.

Pakistan Prime Minister Concludes Visit

Islamabad on 30 Dec Talks

BK3012155993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and President Kim Il-song held talks on bilateral, regional, and international issues in Pyongyang today. Later, a Foreign Office spokesman told reporters that the talks, which lasted for about two hours, were held in a cordial atmosphere.

President Kim Il-song said that his country supports the inalienable right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. He said we still adhere to the stand we had taken on the Kashmir issue during the visit of the late Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to the DPRK in 1976.

Benazir Bhutto apprised the DPRK president of the Indian policy of brutal repression in Kashmir and occupied Kashmir. She also informed him of the background of the foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan due to be held on Sunday. She emphasized that India should give categorical assurance that state terrorism will be stopped in occupied Kashmir, the siege of the Hazratbal Shrine will be lifted, the number of Indian troops in the occupied valley will be reduced, and the political prisoners in occupied Kashmir will be released. She expressed the hope that India will forsake intransigence and adopt a reasonable attitude.

The prime minister also apprised the DPRK leader of Pakistan's stand on nuclear nonproliferation and said that Pakistan is ready to accept restrictions on the proliferation of nuclear weapons at the international and regional levels. In this context, she referred to Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference on nuclear nonproliferation, which has been supported by the Chinese Government. She said Pakistan supports the DPRK president's view that after the end of the Cold War, all countries should observe the UN Charter. Bhutto added that Pakistan opposes any country's hegemony or domination over another. In the past, Pakistan and the DPRK have resisted political and economic hegemony and the two countries should hold mutual consultations in this regard in the future as well.

Concerning the reunification of the two Koreas, Benazir Bhutto said the people of Korea should settle this issue themselves without any outside interference.

The prime minister assured President Kim Il-song that Pakistan is ready to assist in removing differences between the DPRK and the United States on the nuclear issue.

President Kim II-song endorsed the Pakistani prime minister's view that a new global economic system should be evolved through negotiations among the poor countries. He also underscored the need for an exchange of visits of delegations from the two countries to promote cooperation in various fields. The prime minister said Pakistan can benefit from the experience of the DPRK in the social sector because the DPRK has succeeded in alleviating poverty and solving housing problem. She said the two countries will further increase cooperation in the fields of irrigation and hydroelectric schemes. The prime minister invited President Kim Il-song and the DPRK prime minister to visit Pakistan, which was accepted. [passage omitted on Bhutto engagements in Pyongyang and her departure]

KSDP, Pakistan Party Chiefs Meet

SK3112005893 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Kim Pyong-sik, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party, on 30 December met with Rafiq Ahmad Sheikh, secretary general of the Pakistan People's Party, who is visiting our country as a member of a government delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and held talks in a friendly atmosphere. Functionaries concerned were present in the meeting.

The secretary general, in the meeting, pointed out that the friendship and unity between the Pakistani and Korean peoples will last forever and that the Pakistan People's Party actively supports the Korean people's struggle to reunify their fatherland. He touched on ways to develop the friendly relations between Pakistan People's Party and the Korean Social Democratic Party.

Bhutto Delegation Departs 30 Dec

SK3112042893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0400 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 31 (KCNA)—The government delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan led by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto which had been paying an official goodwill visit to Korea at the invitation of President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea left here Thursday night by special plane, successfully concluding the visit.

The Pakistani guests were seen off at the airport by Premier Kang Song-san, Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam, Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang, Vice-Premier Kim Pok-sin, and officials concerned.

A farewell ceremony took place at the airport.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, accompanied by Premier Kang Song-san, reviewed an honour guard of the three services of the KPA.

Thousands of Pyongyangites saw off the friendly envoy of the Pakistani people with warm cheers at the airport.

Daily Marks Anniversary of Kim Chong-il's Work SK0301103194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1011 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries a by-lined article titled "Highly Important Work Illumining Path to Socialism in Our Age" upon the lapse of two years since the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il published the immortal classical work "The Historical Lesson in Building Socialism and the General Line of Our Party" on January 3, 1992.

The article says:

The work is a classic one that scientifically analyzed the historical lesson in building socialism and fully proved the validity and invincible vitality of our party's general line of socialist and communist construction. It is also a highly important work that makes it possible to restart the socialist movement and further strengthen and develop it as demanded by the era of independence.

In the work the dear leader exposed the essence of the reactionary sophism of the imperialists and the renagades of socialism describing the frustration of socialism in some countries as a change in the historical trend. He, on the basis of a scientific analysis of the reasons for the collapse of socialism in some countries, gave a comprehensive exposition of the questions arising in steadfastly defending and accomplishing the cause of socialism. It reflects the unshakable stand and will of our party and people to firmly defend the cause of socialism under any circumstances.

The significance and vitality of the work find expression, first of all, in that it made clear in a scientific way the reasons for the frustration of socialism in some countries, so as to reconstruct the socialist movement on a new basis and advance it more vigorously. The work profoundly indicated the basic reasons for the frustration of socialism in some countries: One of them is that they did not put the main emphasis on strengthening the motive force for building socialism and on enhancing its role because they failed to understand the essence of socialism centering on the popular masses, the makers of history. Another reason is that they failed to recognize the qualitative differences between socialism and capitalism and did not adhere consistently to the fundamental principles of socialism. And it is also the reason that they had not strengthened international solidarity based on independence in relations between parties of socialist countries.

With those reasons clarified in the work, a precious guideline for reconstructing the socialist movement on a new basis and invigorating it has been provided. And it has been possible for the world revolutionary parties and peoples struggling for socialism to fight more vigorously for the victory of the socialist cause with renewed confidence and optimism, well aware of the lesson of the history.

The significance and vitality of the work is also manifested in that it fully proved the validity and invincible vitality of our party's general line of socialist and communist construction, thus encouraging our party and people to further promote the cause of Korean-style socialism under the banner of the chuche idea.

In our country the cause of socialism is now being steadfastly defended and advanced ever victoriously in spite of all the forms of challenge and maneuvers by the imperialists and reactionaries.

This is attributable to the fact that the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il put forward the most correct line of socialist and communist construction and have wisely guided its thorough implementation.

The great leader was the first in history to put forward the general line of building socialism and communism by carrying out the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, while strengthening the people's power and enhancing its function and role.

In the work the dear leader scientifically and theoretically vindicated our party's general line of socialist and communist construction and comprehensively reviewed the great victories and achievements won by our party and people in socialist construction by constantly tackling and successfully implementing it.

Our people have the unswerving faith through their life that our party's line of socialist and communist construction is most just and they can accomplish the cause of socialism only in accordance with it.

Indeed, the publication of this immortal work which is of weighty theoretical and practical significance in the completion of the socialist cause in the era of independence is another great exploit of the dear leader in the accomplishment of the human cause of independence, the cause of socialism.

'Talk' Stresses Awakening Class Consciousness

SK0301054694 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2322 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Unattributed talk: "Awakening the Party Members and Workers to Class Consciousness Is an Important Demand in Advocating and Adhering to Socialism of Our Own Style"]

[Text] Advocating and adhering to socialism of our own style is the most honorable and lofty task facing our party and people today. One of the important problems in advocating and adhering to socialism of our own style from the antirevolutionary offensive of the imperialists and reactionaries is to awaken the party members and workers to class consciousness.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has pointed out: At a time when the situation is very complicated, it is important to carry out class indoctrination well so that the party members and workers can be awakened to class consciousness.

Awakening the party members and workers to class consciousness involves the enhancement of class consciousness to make them hate the exploitative system and exploitative class, resolutely struggle against the exploitative system and exploitative class, advocate and adhere to the gains of socialism, and struggle to the end to complete the socialist cause.

The importance of awakening party members and workers to class consciousness as an important demand in advocating and adhering to socialism of our own style lies in making it possible to strengthen the main force of our revolution and enhancing its role. Strengthening the main force of the revolution and enhancing its role is a fundamental problem in the struggle to advocate and adhere to socialism of our own style. The main force of the revolution is directly in charge of the struggle to advocate and adhere to socialism and a powerful driving force in the socialist cause.

It is important to awaken the party members and workers to class consciousness in strengthening the main force of the revolution and enhancing its role. To strengthen the main force of the revolution the popular masses must be firmly armed with the independent revolutionary ideology and the socialist and communist ideology, and firmly unite them through ideological will around the party and the leader. To achieve this, they must be awakened to class consciousness.

The working class' class consciousness is the core in socialist ideology and the basis in socialist indoctrination is class indoctrination. Therefore, class indoctrination must be strengthened among the party members and workers so that when class consciousness is awakened they can all the more be firmly armed with the socialist and communist ideology and all the more firmly unite around the party and the leader to extraordinarily strengthen the main force of the revolution.

The class consciousness of the party members and workers must be awakened so that their revolutionary enthusiasm and creativity can be enhanced to heighten the role of chuche.

Class consciousness is a decisive element in regulating the people's role in carrying out the revolution and construction. Class consciousness also regulates the characteristics of class consciousness in the behavior of the people taking part in the revolutionary movement and on how much they are manifesting the strong will and struggle might.

The role of the ideological will in the revolutionary movement is dependent on its characteristics and content. Only people who are armed with the ideology of advanced class and the revolutionary ideology of the working class can have a correct class position in the revolutionary struggle and construction work, and struggle to the end by overcoming all kinds of difficulties and trials.

Therefore, when the class consciousness of the party members and workers is raised, they can demonstrate high revolutionary enthusiasm and positive creativity in the struggle to defend and maintain the socialist cause and victoriously advance it to significantly enhance the role of chuche.

Another reason why awakening the party members and workers to class consciousness is an important requirement for defending and maintaining socialism of our own style is that it enables us to firmly adhere to revolutionary principles in carrying out the socialist cause.

Adhering to revolutionary principles in carrying out the socialist cause is an important issue in defending and maintaining socialism. The revolutionary principle on defending and embodying the popular masses' demand of independence must be consistently maintained to defend and maintain the socialist cause and advance it. Only when the class consciousness of the party members and workers is raised, they will consider socialism to be their belief and persistently adhere to revolutionary principles in carrying out the socialist cause.

Socialist, communist construction is being carried out amid a fierce class struggle. For the popular masses to defeat all obstructionist maneuvers by the imperialists and reactionaries and defend, maintain, and complete the socialist cause to the end, they must have a firm belief in socialism.

People will believe in socialism only when their class consciousness is raised. Party members and workers will consider socialism to be their belief and constantly adhere to revolutionary principles in carrying out the socialist cause when we further strengthen indoctrination in class consciousness among the party members and workers and when, as a result, they have a full understanding of the reactionary nature of capitalism and imperialism and the inevitability of their ruin, the justness of the socialist cause, and the inevitability of the victory of socialism.

Another reason why awakening the party members and workers to class consciousness is an important requirement for defending and maintaining socialism of our own style is that it enables us to thoroughly crush [chippusilssuikke] the antirevolutionary maneuvers of imperialists and class enemies. The struggle to carry out the socialist, communist cause entails a fierce class struggle against all sorts of class enemies.

Those imperialists are continuously clinging to the policy of strength and threatening the socialist countries militarily. They are also perpetrating all sorts of cunning maneuvers to disintegrate socialist countries politically and economically, ideologically and culturally.

Inspired by the imperialists, the remnants of the hostile classes of socialist society [sahoejuui sahoe naebue namainnun choktaegyegubui chanyobunjadul], are also maneuvering overtly and covertly [umuro yanguro chaektong] to overthrow the socialist system and revive a capitalist system. This is a fierce class struggle of who beats whom [igussun nuga nugurul hanun chiyolhan gyegup tujaeng imnida]. In this struggle, the people cannot defend and maintain socialism, a revolutionary achievement which was won with blood, without thoroughly crushing [chippusiji] the antisocialist maneuvers of imperialists and the remnants of the overthrown class of exploiters.

Enhancing the awakening to class consciousness of the party members and working people is important to smashing the anti-socialist maneuvers of the imperialists and class enemies. It is necessary to strengthen class indoctrination of party members and working people to uncompromisingly wage a struggle to correctly differentiate friend from foe, endlessly hate the imperialists, landlords and capitalists, oppose the exploiting system and class enemies, and defend and adhere to the socialist system.

Thinking that people would naturally possess socialist ideology if the socialist system was firmly established and people's material and cultural lifestyles were enhanced, the ruling parties in the former Soviet Union and eastern European countries did not work hard enough at the work to enhance people's awakening to class consciousness. As a result, individualism and egoism seriously developed among party members and working people, and anti-socialist ideology flooded in from outside bringing about ideological permutation. It was inevitable for these countries not to be able to overcome the antirevolutionary offensive of the imperialists and bourgeois welfarists and for socialism to be frustrated as the parties of these countries gave up the ideological indoctrination works of enhancing the awakening to class consciousness for their party members and working people.

Socialism is a society where ideology is its life. Socialism wins if the party of the working class strengthens class indoctrination-based socialist ideological indoctrination work so that the popular masses are armed with socialist ideology and unite as one on that basis. Socialism collapses if the party gives up ideological indoctrination work and the popular masses become ideologically ill.

Taking the enhancement of the awakening to class consciousness for party members and working people as one of the important problems related to socialism's destiny, our party has ceaselessly deepened the class indoctrination work for them. The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song put forth a policy concerning the strengthening of class indoctrination early in the days of basic socialist construction and wisely led us to strengthen class indoctrination work for the party members and working people in conformity with the demands of revolutionary development. The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il

put forth the unique ideology to further strengthen the class indoctrination work in conformity with our revolutionary development's new, higher-stage demands of modelling the whole society after chuche idea, and wisely led us to carry it out in diverse forms and ways.

Today in our country, single-hearted unity of the leader [suryong], the party, and the popular masses is strength-ened as iron and the people's awakening to class consciousness is being heightened as the socialist ideological indoctrination work based on class indoctrination is being vigorously carried out among the party members and working people under the wise leadership of our party.

Coping with imperialists and reactionaries' antisocialist and antirepublic maneuvers which is becoming more severe with each passing day, we should further strengthen our class position and better prepare the party members and working people for becoming resolute revolutionary fighters who defend, adhere to, and elucidate socialism of our style with their lives by ceaselessly deepening the ideological indoctrination work to awaken their class consciousness.

People Exalted To Carry Out Economic Strategy SK3112044293 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0414 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Pyongyang, December 31 (KCNA)—The legendary Chollima, a symbol of the revolutionary stamina of the Korean people, has spread its wings for another leap.

With the pride in having carried out the Third Seven-Year Plan (1987-1993) under the changed situation and manifold hardships, the Korean people have risen up again in a fruitful struggle to carry through the revolutionary economic strategy of the party.

At the 21st plenary meeting of the sixth Central Committee, the Workers' Party of Korea, on the basis of a profound analysis of the changed situation and actual demands of socialist construction in our country, set two or three years to come as a period of adjustment in socialist economic construction and put forward a strategic policy of directing primary efforts to agriculture, light industry and foreign trade in this period.

"Let us bring about a great upsurge in economic construction in the spirit of Chollima spurred on by the 'Speed of the 90's'!"

In response to this militant slogan of the party, the Working People of Korea are hardening their determination to carry through the new strategic policy of socialist construction.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il said:

"Just as we have advanced so far, upholding the revolutionary slogan of self-reliance and hard struggle, so in the future we should hold high this slogan and smash the anti-socialist moves of the imperialists and the reactionaries and accomplish the socialist cause."

Still alive are the spirit and the stamina with which they brought about a great upswing of Chollima in response to the resolution of the historic December, 1956, plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the party calling them to maximum production and economy in the days when the internal and external situation was grim after the war.

The revolutionary banner of self-reliance and hard struggle was the only banner that we had to hold high when we were reconstructing the economy with bare hands on war ruins.

Our people, upholding this revolutionary banner, shattered the silly talk of the enemy that Korea would not be able to rise again in a hundred years and turned Korea into a socialist industrial state from scratch in the spirit of Chollima that gallops ten steps, nay a hundred steps, when others take one step.

By effecting another great upsurge in socialist economic construction in this revolutionary spirit, the Working People of Korea are building our-style socialism into an invincible bulwark, resolutely smashing the moves of the imperialists and the reactionaries to blockade and stifle the DPRK economically.

The whole country is seething with revolutionary enthusiasm, though it is not long after the new policy of socialist economic strategy was set forth.

Mass meetings to carry through the resolution of the plenary meeting were held in all parts of the country.

More than 100,000 Pyongyang citizens held a mass meeting and resolved to take the lead in carrying through the new strategic policy of the party.

In accordance with the strategic policy of the party, the agricultural working people are pushing ahead with the work for completing the technical revolution in the countryside set forth in the rural theses and carry on farm work on a scientific and technical basis as demanded by the farming method of chuche so as to place all sectors of agricultural production on a new, higher level.

Well-planned operations have been launched to modernize light industrial factories still further, expand the variety of consumer goods and decisively improve their quality.

And a thorough-going organizational work has been undertaken to increase the production of exports in all fields of the national economy and actively explore foreign markets for a new turn in the development of foreign trade.

The work of economic organisation is geared to the new economic strategy.

The working people of Korea are making energetic efforts to create "the speed of general march of our-style socialism" with confidence in victory and optimism, undaunted by any political and ideological offensive of the imperialists and the reactionaries and their economic blockade.

Daily Highlights Peoples' 'Revolutionary Spirit'
SK0301104794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1028
GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA)—It is the revolutionary spirit pertaining to the Korean people to advance full of confidence and optimism along the straight road of chuche, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article Sunday [2 January].

The revolutionary spirit of our people who are advancing along the straight road of chuche finds a graphic expression in that they firmly arm themselves with the great chuche-based idea of socialism and think and act only in accordance with its requirement and that they are making strenuous efforts to defend and thoroughly implement the party's line and policies, the article says, and continues:

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, basing himself on the chuche idea founded by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, has developed and perfected the idea of socialism from a new angle. The chuche-based idea of socialism proves that socialism is the most advanced society where the popular masses are the masters of everything and everything serves them and which is steadily developed by their concerted efforts. As our people have firmly armed themselves with the chuche idea they cherish the justness of the socialist cause of chuche as their faith and dynamically advance along the road of socialism without wavering under any anti-socialist whirlwind.

Today our people's struggle to defend and build socialism is immediately a struggle to implement the party's line and policies. At the 21st plenary meeting of the 6th party Central Committee our party, on the basis of a profound analysis of the changed circumstances and the realistic demands of our socialist construction, set the three years to come as a period for adjustment in socialist economic construction and put forward a strategic agriculture-first, light industry-first and foreign trade-first policy. Our people find their way in the line and policies of the party and deem it as the requirement of a worthy life to defend and implement them and turn out dynamically to this end. As they have a definite stand toward the party's line and policies, our people are displaying a high revolutionary spirit and militancy and creating new miracles and feats in carrying them through.

The revolutionary spirit of our people is also manifested in solving all problems by themselves in the high revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, the article says. Noting that it is the revolutionary spirit of our people to decisively counter the base maneuverings of the enemies with redoubled courage in the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude, the article stresses that for this the foundations of our independent socialist national economy are firmly consolidated with each passing day and our political, economic and military might strengthened still further.

South Korea

U.S., DPRK Said To Reach 'Tentative Agreement' SK3112020593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Washington, Dec. 30 (YONHAP)—North Korea and the United States are to hold a couple more working-level contacts in early January and then toss nuclear inspection details over to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), sources said Thursday.

The two sides have not reached a full agreement on access to all seven declared nuclear facilities, they said. The tentative agreement now is to wrap up the working-level negotiations next month and leave the details to talks between North Korea and the IAEA.

According to State Department spokesman David Johnson, the talks are closing in on the goal and there will be another contact with North Korea soon.

While Johnson reaffirmed that North Korea would have to allow unrestricted inspection of all seven facilities, sources said that though Pyongyang suggested willingness to grant something close to a full inspection it certainly did not clearly agree to routine inspections.

One source said the situation resembles a half-filled cup: Some will say it's half full, and others will say it's half empty.

Washington negotiators decided that this is close enough to an agreement for unlimited inspection and accepted the North Korean proposal to settle the details directly with the IAEA, according to the sources.

In their most recent contact, on Wednesday, the United States and North Korea discussed where North Korea and the IAEA would meet and North Korea proposed Pyongyang.

U.S. officials opposed the idea because they would rather see an IAEA inspection go into North Korea after an agreement is clearly reached, the sources said.

Washington may agree to announce another round of high-level talks with Pyongyang and suspension of the South Korea-U.S. annual military maneuver "Team Spirit" once an IAEA inspection team arrives in Pyongyang and inter-Korean dialogue resumes, they said. A roughly drawn timetable includes more working-level talks in early January, North Korea-IAEA negotiations in mid-January, an IAEA team's arrival in North Korea and inter-Korean dialogue in late January, and high-level North Korea-U.S. talks sometime in February, the sources said.

Official on U.S.-DPRK Talks

SK3112025693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—North Korea and the United States resolved Wednesday nearly all of their differences on inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities and a third-round of high-level talks in their working-level contact in New York, a senior South Korean Government official said Friday. As a result, North Korea will resume its negotiations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and working-level contact with South Korea in January, the official said. There is also a strong possibility that North Korea and the United States will hold a third round of their high-level talks soon, he said, requesting anonymity.

"The United States and North Korea could not reach a complete agreement as two problems arose at their contact in New York on Tuesday," the official said. "But these problems are not crucial and I don't believe that they will become an obstacle."

The official declined to disclose details of the difficulties but said the United States and South Korea have already informed Pyongyang of their positions on the problems.

"Therefore, the statement by the North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman on Thursday night could be taken as its reply, accepting the U.S.-South Korean position," the official said.

The statement said that there had been a breakthrough in the latest round of talks between the United States and North Korea in New York.

"The two sides removed a series of stumbling blocks that had deadlocked the North Korea-U.S. talks and made a breakthrough for progress...," the North Korean spokesman said.

The South Korean official said, "The possibility of solving the two problems is increasing."

He indicated that North Korea is going to allow the IAEA to inspect all seven of its nuclear facilities in Yongbyon and will accept a proposal for exchanges of special envoys with South Korea.

The problems involve the venue for the North Korean-IAEA talks. North Korea wants to hold them in Pyongyang whereas the United States want them to be held in a third country and favors Vienna, according to informed sources. Because of these differences, the two sides could not work out a complete agreement, they said.

The United States and North Korea are expected to hold another working-level contact in New York early next month to discuss the venue for the talks and other auxiliary matters.

Inter-Korean relations and the North Korean nuclear issue will enter into a new phase if the United States and North Korea agree to hold a third-round of high-level talks, they said.

Team Spirit To End if Nuclear Issue Resolved SK0201225594 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 2100 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] It has been learned that if the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and North Korea reach an agreement in nuclear inspection negotiations, the government will announce its plan to suspend this year's Team Spirit exercise.

A government official pointed out that the reason the ROK Government will announce the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise is to make North Korea aware of the fact that its efforts to exclude the ROK Government's role in the negotiations to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue is a very unrealistic measure.

This official said that even after the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise is announced, if the result of the IAEA's inspection is not satisfactory and the exchange of special envoys of the South and North is not realized, the ROK Government will decide to resume the Team Spirit exercise and will make the announcement.

This official added that the reason it was decided that the ROK Government will announce the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise and its resumption, if the result of the IAEA's inspection is not satisfactory and the exchange of special envoys of the South and North is not realized, is to show that the ROK Government is playing a clear role in the process of nuclear negotiations between the United States and North Korea, and to point out that it is very unrealistic for North Korea to insist only on direct negotiations between the United States and North Korea.

Official Foresees Turning Point in N-S Relations SK0301015994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 3 (YONHAP)—This year will see a turning point in inter-Korean relations as South Korea and the United States have almost agreed with North Korea on how to solve the nuclear problem, according to a government official.

"The United States and North Korea virtually agreed at a series of contacts in New York last month to simultaneously resolve the issues of the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks, North Korea's acceptance of full-fledged nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and exchange of special envoys between South and North Korea," the senior official said Monday. "So we expect a great change in inter-Korean relations this year."

He said that Washington and Pyongyang will have another working-level contact to reach final agreement and he expects direct consultation between the IAEA and North Korea to resume soon.

An IAEA inspection team could enter North Korea as soon as Jan. 10, he said. On the day the team enters North Korea, Seoul will announce suspension of its "Team Spirit" joint military exercise with the United States, and Washington will announce the holding of a third-round of high-level talks with Pyongyang, he added. The two Koreas are expected to have a working-level contact for exchange of special envoys.

"Pyongyang and Washington are expected to have the third round of their high-level talks as early as around the end of this month to find a thorough and broad solution of the North Korean nuclear problem and discuss improvement of Pyongyang-Washington relations," he said.

Former opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, who is engaged in the study of unification, said on New Year's day that he expects great progress and even an inter-Korean summit this year if the nuclear problem is solved.

The government should lay emphasis on solving the nuclear problem and then on resumption and revitalization of inter-Korean economic cooperation, Kim said.

At the end of last year, President Kim Yong-sam told journalists that he saw signs of change beginning to show and there would be an important turning point in inter-Korean relations in early 1994.

DPRK To Prepare for Ties With South, U.S. SK0301074994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0723 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 3 (YONHAP)—The North Korean Workers (Communist) Party has established two special teams to prepare for a sudden and rapid rapprochement with South Korea and the United States, a senior government official said Monday.

The special teams, which are similar to the task forces that China formed to prepare for normalization of diplomatic ties with the United States and Japan, are led by Vice President Kim Yong-chu, who is President Kim Il-song's younger brother and was only a few weeks ago reinstated by the party, and Party Secretary Hwang Chang-yop, respectively.

"The special teams control all the negotiations related to South Korean and U.S. affairs," the official said. "The special team for South Korean affairs is headed by Kim Yong-chu and Kim Tal-hyon, who was recently dismissed as State Planning Commission chairman and vice premier, while the team for U.S. affairs is led by Hwang Chang-yop and Kim Yong-sun, a party secretary," he said.

"North Korea established the teams because Kim Chong-il aspires to epochal achievements in foreign and inter-Korean relations, including the forming of diplomatic relations with Washington, this year, the 20th year since he was named successor to Kim Il-song."

Kim became chairman of the National Defense Committee last year, assuming the big three powers of the party, the government and the military, and is expected to take over as party general secretary this year.

Kim Yong-chu became vice president at a plenary meeting of the Workers' Party Central Committee last month while Kim Tal-hyon was dismissed as vice premier and State Planning Commission chairman "to be transferred to other post."

Further on DPRK Task Forces

OW0301101194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0948 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 3 KYODO—Pyongyang's governing Korean Workers Party has established two task forces to manage relations with South Korea and the United States, a South Korean Government official said Monday [3 January].

President Kim Il-song's younger brother Kim Yong-chu and veteran economist Kim Tal-hyon have been appointed to jointly manage the group dealing with South Korean Affairs, the official said.

The team set up to take charge of relations with the U.S. is headed jointly by Hwang Chang-yop and Kim Yong-sun, both secretaries of the Workers Party, he said.

"What laid behind the formation of these two special task forces seemed to be North Korea's intention to break the logjam in its relations with the U.S. and South Korea this year, especially as it marks the 20th anniversary of the designation of Kim Chong-il, son of President Kim Il-song, as his father's successor," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

North Korea's economy is reportedly in crisis and Pyongyang's refusal to allow full inspections of its nuclear facilities has further aroused suspicion that it is secretly developing nuclear weapons. The U.S. has put pressure on North Korea to accept international inspections of its suspected nuclear facilities and clear up doubts about its nuclear intentions. The U.S. and North Korea reportedly made progress last week in resolving the dispute.

Among the North Korean officials named to head the key new task forces, Kim Yong-chu, comanager of the South Korean affairs team, made a sudden political comeback last month when named vice president as part of a top-level personnel shakeup.

Kim Tal-hyon, dropped from the post of vice premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission in the same reshuffle, has reportedly been relegated to the post of manager of a chemical factory in Hamhung, North Hamkyong Province.

But the South Korean official said that move appeared to be purely a symbolic gesture and that Kim Tal-hyon will soon take up a high-profile job as a major economic policymaker.

A North Korean source at the border village of Panmunjom said last month that Kim's appointment as a manager of the chemical factory did not mean his "downgrading to an idle job."

ROK To Help Improve DPRK-U.S., DPRK-Japan Ties

SK0101055294 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 1 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] The government has decided to actively help improve North Korea's relations with the United States and Japan if the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks are held, it was learned yesterday.

The government thinks that the northern policy implemented by the Sixth Republic must have deepened North Korea's isolation, thereby leading to the acceleration of its nuclear development, and that, therefore, practical assistance to North Korea to open itself up will be necessary for the development of inter-Korean relations, said a relevant government official on 31 December.

Relevant government officials understand that North Korea and the United States almost agreed to hold the third round of high-level talks through a series of working contacts in New York and that, accordingly, the inter-Korean dialogue and North Korea-U.S. dialogue to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue will make rapid progress this year.

President: Nuclear Issue Must Be Solved in 1994 SK0301060294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0556 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 3 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yongsam said Monday that South Korea must solve the North Korean nuclear problem without fail this year as it is crucial for the survival of the nation.

"The North Korean nuclear problem, which is of ultimate importance to the survival of the 70 million Korean people, should be solved early this year at the latest," Kim said in a New Year's ceremony at Chongwadae [presidential offices] attended by presidential secretaries and guards.

"We had many difficulties trying to solve the nuclear problem because we needed inter-Korean negotiations and because we had a counterpart to negotiate with." He also mentioned rice market opening.

"It is important for us to save our agricultural communities. Rice will be imported beginning next year, but the government will buy and process it all for reexport," he said.

On industrial relations, he emphasized stability and said that the businesses need stable relations between labor and management to develop advanced technology and make excellent goods, which is necessary to win the competition on the international market.

Kim Yong-sam Issues New Year's Day Message SK3112015393 Seoul YONHAP in English 0110 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam, in his New Year's Day message, urged the people on Saturday to make a brave leap forward to the world and the future in 1994 while consolidating the reform and change that they achieved in the last year.

"Let us usher in the new year with an open mind, shedding old things as we have just bidden farewell to the past," Kim said.

"Let us also shed selfishness, deceit, indolence, vanity and wastefulness in the New Year and be reborn as a new people. We have to make 1994 a new year in which we have to wipe out the remaining corruption and irregularities and make ours a new and clean society."

The president said he wished that everyone would live for their community rather than for themselves in the coming year.

"We have to demolish all kinds of obstacles within ourselves and remold a just society that we can be proud of," the president said. "There lies the reason why we cannot delay nor stop our reform."

1994 must be the year during which "we have to open narrow minds and closed doors and take the steps toward the competitive, wide world with the confidence born of cooperation," he said.

He said the coming year has to be the period in which Korea not only survives in the new world order of competition but raises its status as a nation still further.

"A chance never comes twice," Kim declared. "And it is said that chance and crisis come together."

The president urged the people to grab the opportunity that, he said, was being created as a challenge through internationalization and openness, referring, among other things, to the successful conclusion of the uruguay round of trade negotiations under which Korea will open its farm market.

"We cannot afford to miss the best opportunity that has come our way in a long while," he said.

Everyone will have to take up the challenge of competition, at work, on the street, at home and in school, Kim said.

"None of us should ever forget that we are the main player in international competition. And we have to win, at any cost," he declared.

"We cannot afford to waste our precious time by engaging in wasteful dissension and enmity," he said.

"In order to win the unrestrained competition in international arenas, let us concentrate our creativity and ability to boost our national strength and organization. We have to make 1994 the starting point for reform and progress toward the world and the future. We should not cling to unproductive arguments but find the right answers in practical work."

The people had to sort out what was good and beneficial for them. Through such practical reform, Kim said, the country can solve the problems of farmers and fishermen, who face a severe challenge as a result of the market opening for farm imports.

"Let us gather our wisdom and strength in order to give hope and courage to our farmers," he said.

Lastly, the president said, he prayed for genuine peace to befall the still divided Korean peninsula through a resolution of the North Korean nuclear question this year.

"Let us work together to make 1994 a year in which Koreans living in the North can take part in the world-wide trend of reform and openness as well as in our people's historical mission to create a new Korea," he said.

Further on President's Message

SK0101062594 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Jan 94 p 1

[Text] President Kim Yong-sam, in his New Year's message to the nation today, vowed to eliminate the remaining irregularities and corruption this year to build a much cleaner society.

"In the year 1994, we should move forward toward the world and the future on the foundation of what we achieved through last year's reform drive," Kim said.

"I hope we can all be born anew this year after ridding ourselves of such vices as egoism, falsehood, idleness, vanity and extravagance," Kim said.

"The ongoing anticorruption drive cannot be stopped or slowed at this point because it is my obligation to construct a just society," the President stressed.

To survive in the new era of unrestrained international competition, he said, "We must concentrate our ability and creativity on building up national power. An opportunity, once lost, is lost forever. An opportunity always

follows a crisis. We should take full advantage of the challenge stemming from globalization and opening to upgrade our national status," President Kim said.

Saying that all people should join in the movement to strengthen national competitiveness, Kim stressed that each member of society should not forget that he or she has an important role to play in international competition.

"We have to win," he asserted.

"We are now at the starting point in our race toward the world and future. We can't afford to waste any of our precious time on conflict and enmity. Instead of pursuing meaningless arguments, we should seek after the practical," Kim said.

Touching on the issue of the domestic agricultural market opening, the President appealed to the nation to give full support to the farmers. He asked the people to focus their wisdom and strength on helping the farmers regain hope and courage.

"Let's work hard to make 1994 the year in which the foundation of a New Korea was firmly laid," Kim said.

In conclusion, President Kim made a brief mention of the North Korean nuclear issue.

"I hope the nuclear matter will be resolved this year so that true peace can come to the Korean Peninsula, which has been scarred by division for the past 40 years," Kim said.

President Kim called for great efforts to help compatriots in the North join not only in the worldwide trend of opening and reform but also in the creation of a New Korea.

President To Focus on Internationalization

SK0301021894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0134 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 3 (YONHAP)—President Kim Yong-sam has picked internationalization, revitalization of the economy and reform as the three biggest tasks for the nation in 1994. He will carry out his policies, focused on globalization and openness, by strengthening the competitive power of the country.

His government will push efforts to ease economic and administrative regulations and restrictions to make a second economic leap in the new economic order brought on by successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations.

The government will try to concentrate the national strength for economic revitalization and increased exports through stepped-up capital investment and stable industrial relations.

To achieve these goals, President Kim believes, the political foundation has to be stable first. He will,

therefore, continue to remove factors that breed irregularities and corruption while adopting legislation on unified elections, political fundraising, and political parties at an early date.

At the same time, the administration plans to redraw election districts in preparations for next year's local elections and undertake local administrative reform.

An official at Chongwadae [presidential office] said Monday that Kim contemplated the three basic policy directions of internationalization, economic revitalization, and reform during his two-day new year's holiday.

Kim's ideas include strategies for internationalization and openness in the wake of the Uruguay Round, local elections in 1995, parliamentary elections in 1996 and the presidential election in 1997, the official said. He regards the North Korean nuclear issue as the key to inter-Korean relations. He plans to map out multilateral strategies for the resolution of the issue. His government will work out measures for economic cooperation with North Korea and establishment of diplomatic relations between Pyongyang and Washington and Pyongyang and Tokyo if, or when, the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved, the official said.

President Kim will actively pursue summit diplomacy for closer coordination with the United States, Japan, China, Russia and others to maintain peace on the Korean peninsula.

He is scheduled to visit Japan in the first half of the year to be followed by a visit to Jakarta for the second Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the second half.

The president is expected to spell out his policies in detail at his first press conference of the year and on other occasions, the official said.

Kim Yong-sam Sends Message to Koreans Overseas

SK0101070494 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Jan 94 p 2

["New Year's message" sent by ROK President Kim Yong-sam to "the five million overseas Koreans;" place and date not given]

[Text] My five million fellow Koreans abroad,

1994, the Year of the Dog, is dawning. I am delighted to send New Year's greetings to you, although I regret it must be over the radio rather than in person.

I commend you for all you have achieved through your hard work in the face of all manner of hardships in your adoptive lands, and for always having been concerned for your home country.

Fellow Koreans abroad.

Last year was a very important year for the future of Korea. The era of stagnation and frustration gave way to one of dynamism and hope. It was the first year of the New Korea being forged through change and reform. The deep-seated legacy of misconduct and corruption that was rampant in the past several decades is being weeded out, injecting fresh air into our society. Korea is becoming a healthy land in which those who work hard and honestly can live well. These changes have greatly elevated our international stature.

Many say that the Asia-Pacific region will continue to be the most dynamic center of world growth. I am absolutely sure that the New Korea we are building will play a leading role in the Asia-Pacific age which is certain to emerge in the 21st century. Such a New Korea, with its enhanced international status, will benefit all the 70 million Korean people at home and around the world. It will be a source of encouragement and a spiritual haven for overseas Koreans in particular.

Overseas Koreans,

I know well that you have experienced and still are experiencing many difficulties in getting adjusted to and integrated into your adoptive societies. I am confident, however, that just as our people have triumphed over numerous trials and tribulations throughout history, you will never abandon yourselves to despair but will eventually overcome adversity. I sincerely hope that you will achieve not only economic security but also actively contribute to your communities. In that way, you will become respected citizens of your adoptive countries and demonstrate the excellent national traits of the Korean people to the world.

I always keep in mind the fact that your, the overseas Koreans, are an invaluable asset for Korea. I am making every possible effort for your interests. In particular, I am working hard to improve our immigration and other pertinent laws and regulations so that your will not suffer any trouble and inconvenience in visiting or dealing with your homeland.

When your home country advances, your own status will rise also. Likewise, your success is a source of pride for our people.

My fellow Koreans overseas,

Our people have a long-cherished goal which we cannot forget even while sleeping: The peaceful unification of the divided Korea. A unified Korea would certainly be able to play a key global role. To that end, North Korea must clear up doubts and suspicions about its nuclear intentions. I am doing my best to persuade the North, with a sense of kinship and patience, to join in the new world order geared to peace, prosperity and freedom.

Overseas Koreans,

The world is now entering an age of fierce economic war, replacing the past ideological war. If we do not work hard enough, we will skid into the backwaters of history. We

must strive for a second national foundation and a second liberation. Looking ahead into the future, we must be determined to succeed in reforming all spheres of national life—political, economic, civic and all others—so that your home country will have become advanced by all measures, including the extent of internationalization.

Please always remember that you are the pioneers of Korea's internationalization and are in a unique position to aid and guide our efforts to build a unified and prosperous New Korea. Let us pool our strength to construct a great and advanced nation so that our posterity can be proud of being born Korea.

In greeting 1994, I wish you and your families good health, happiness and prosperity.

Thank you.

Prime Minister Comments on Reforms for 1994 SK0101054194 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Report on "special interview" with Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang by unidentified reporter on 31 December place not given]

[Text] Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang, in a special interview with KBS on 31 December, said that reforms in 1994 will be centered on improving systems and operations, and that he will positively examine measures to enhance the morale of public officials. Holding that reforms are for improving systems that form the core of the country, he stressed that the government will sharpen the national competitive edge and pursue reforms through improving systems and operations rather than punishing public officials.

[Begin Yi Hoe-chang recording] I think that the improvements of the bureaucratic society and the state administration are intended for improving the country's systems and operations, not for punishing public officials. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yi Hoe-chang said in particular that he will map out concrete measures at an early date to improve the public servants' welfare in order to raise their morale because they are the same ordinary people who have to carry on with their lives. He said that he has already drafted a formula on improving the promotion system.

[Begin Yi recording] Public officials' income will be increased by 6.2 percent in 1994. However, I cannot possibly say that such an increase will bring better treatment to public officials. [end recording]

Prime Minister Yi disclosed that the government is reexamining the overall agricultural policy in the wake of the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and will set up necessary measures by fully reflecting the farmers' opinions and sharing the pain of the rural areas through field administration.

Foreign Minister Interviewed on DPRK Issue SK3112085493 Seoul MUNHWA ILBO in Korean 31 Dec 93 p 3

[Article by Kim Chae-mok based on interview with Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu by Yi Yong-sik, deputy manager of the political department of MUNWHA ILBO; place and date not given—first three paragraphs are introductory remarks by reporter Kim]

[Text] Regarding the degree of progress made toward the solution of the North Korean nuclear issue, Minister Han said, "While some areas have seen positive results thanks to the time and effort placed on it, a solution has yet to appear." The positive results are that there has been no extreme crisis, that dialogue is continuing, and that clues towards a solution still remain.

Regarding the decision on policy over the North Korean nuclear issue, Minister Han said, "The cooperative system between the ROK and the United States is firm." He added, "The U.S. position notified to the North in the 22 December North Korea-U.S. working contact in New York was in fact formulated by us."

He said, "At the present stage, the ROK and the United States are pushing ahead with a small package deal so that North Korea will allow ad hoc and ordinary inspections [imsi mit tongsang sachal] by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and participate in inter-Korean dialogue."

[Yi Yong-sik] What are the prospects for the third round of high-level talks between North Korea and the United States?

[Han Sung-chu] If North Korea allows the IAEA to conduct complete ad hoc and ordinary inspections and the exchange of special envoys between the North and the South to discuss the nuclear issue, the third round of North Korea-U.S. high-level talks will be held. The talks, if held, will be held not in a week or two, but at the earliest, towards the end of January or in early February.

[Yi] In the event that the third round of North Korea-U.S. talks are held, what will be the main and auxiliary agenda?

[Han] The third round of talks will, first and foremost, focus on completely dissolving suspicion on the North Korean nuclear program. Our position is that once the precondition of resolving the North Korean nuclear issue is met, we can discuss the issues raised by the North side of guaranteeing security and other political and economic issues.

[Yi] In connection with the resolving of the North Korean nuclear issue, how can we set a political and technical deadline? [Han] The definition of a deadline can vary depending upon one's perception of the varying degrees to the resolution of the nuclear issue. Since it may be several weeks before the present stalemate connected with the crisis of the IAEA's safeguards continuity is resolved, the deadline may be several weeks from now. Since it may be several months before the suspicion that emerged from the disparity between the North Korean declaration of its nuclear-related facilities and the IAEA's investigation results is dissipated, the deadline may be several months from now.

[Yi] North Korea is reported to have called for a package solution which includes the IAEA's inspection of the North Korean nuclear sites and the improvement of North Korea-U.S. relations. What specific demands is North Korea making in connection with the improvement of relations?

[Han] In a statement made on 11 November last year, Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-chu referred to a package solution in which the two sides would move simultaneously after determining the points of discussion.

At the current stage, no concrete details on the method for the package deal have been presented. However, we can easily guess that North Korea is concerned and interested in the issue of guaranteeing security such as the declaration on not waging a preemptive nuclear attack on North Korea and the suspension of the Team Spirit exercise, and political and economic issues such as lifting the designation of North Korea as a terrorist country, dissolving the trade embargo on North Korea, and assisting in the construction of light water reactors.

[Yi] There are many figures in the United States who feel the need for the early establishment of diplomatic relations between the United States and North Korea....

[Han] It is a well known fact that such figures exist in the United States. Another fact is that voices of the hard line faction are rising with each passing day in the United States. This is an indication that the more North Korea plays for time, the less favorable it will be for North Korea.

[Yi] Do you think that diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States can be attained in the coming year?

[Han] The possibility exists. However, it is not very probable. This is because other than the resolution of the nuclear issue, there are many preconditions for the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States. Besides the resolution of the nuclear issue, the United States has deep interest in various conditions such as practical progress in South-North dialogue, the control of exports of large-scale homicidal weapons like missiles, the abandonment of terrorism, the return of remains of U.S. soldiers, and the improvement of human rights conditions. It is clear that the resolution of the nuclear issue will greatly contribute

to improving conditions for the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States.

[Yi] What is our government's position on the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States?

[Han] Drawing a hasty conclusion on whether or when the United States and North Korea will establish diplomatic relations is difficult. However, we have already established diplomatic relations with the old Soviet and normalized diplomatic relations with mainland China. Therefore, opposing the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States even after the resolution of North Korea's nuclear issue is shortsighted. Opposing the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States will not help South-North relations and ultimately, will not be of help on the road to reunification.

We are fully prepared to actively assist North Korea in becoming a responsible member of international society, once North Korea's nuclear issue is resolved satisfactorily.

[Yi] Is our government making any special preparations regarding the possibility of the establishment of relations between North Korea and the United States?

[Han] Preparations are being made from various angles and for various possibilities. However, it is inappropriate to reveal details regarding this right now.

[Yi] What are the positions of Japan and China on the establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States?

[Han] The Japanese Government views the resolution of North Korea's nuclear issue as being important to the resumption and settlement of currently suspended negotiations between Japan and North Korea on diplomatic relations. Therefore, Japan is focusing its attention on how dialogue between North Korea and the United States is progressing.

China does not want North Korea to be isolated in international society. Therefore, China welcomes and is assisting North Korea in improving relations with Western countries.

[Yi] If North Korea establishes diplomatic relations with the United States, what impact will it have on inter-Korean relations?

[Han] The improvement of relations between North Korea and the United States will come about after the resolution of the precondition on the nuclear issue. Therefore, the promotion of North Korea-U.S. relations will naturally lead to improvement in inter-Korean relations. It will activate inter-Korean exchange of people and materials, which had been suspended with the exception of indirect trade. By the time North Korea and

the United States establish diplomatic relations, inter-Korean relations may have progressed enough to establish trade missions in Seoul and Pyongyang. In short, progress in inter-Korean relations and the improvement of North Korea-U.S. relations complement one another.

[Yi] The establishment of diplomatic relations between North Korea and the United States is likely to have substantial impact on overall order in Northeast Asia, isn't it?

[Han] Even if North Korea improves and normalizes its relations with the United States, it will try to restrict opening itself up to the outside world, because it fears that the aftermath of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States may endanger the maintenance of its system. Therefore, hardly any substantial change in order in Northeast Asia can be expected in the short run. In the long run, however, it will bring forth very significant change in two aspects. First, the establishment of North Korea-U.S. diplomatic relations will lead to the normalization of North Korea-Japan relations, which will ultimately help North Korea cast aside isolation to participate proudly in the international community. Second, it will contribute to fundamental changes in North Korean society and its overall system of values.

[Yi] What direction will diplomatic policy take in the new year?

[Han] The five basics of a new diplomacy were established following the inauguration of the civilian government. The five basics are to move into the world, diversify, pluralize, cooperate regionally, and to be futuristic. I believe that the part on "moving into the world," was especially notable in the past year.

In a wider sense, prohibiting the spread of large-scale homicidal weapons including North Korea's nuclear issue, our participation in the UN Peacekeeping Operation, and our participation in the free trade system through the settlement of the Uruguay Round makes it possible for us to broaden our world view to move toward internationalization. The new year's policy of a new diplomacy will focus on "pluralism" and "regional cooperation." With the inauguration of the World Trade Organization and the Green Round next year, the issues of environment and development will be prominant and a competition policy will be brought to the fore. Therefore, while maintaining a secure basis, our diplomacy must extend its domain into the fields of economy, communication, environment, and development. In addition, multi-faceted cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region is increasing rapidly. The Asia-Pacific Economy Cooperation summit will be held in Indonesia in November of next year, and sometime in July, the first Asian Regional Forum of the whole Asia and Pacific region including Russia, China, and Vietnam will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.

Diplomats Told To Prepare for Trade War

SK3112015693 Seoul YONHAP in English 0118 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] Seoul, Dec. 31 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu called on all diplomatic service members in a New Year message Friday to prepare for a trade war and internationalization.

"Many nations have shed ideological confrontation to seek reconciliation and cooperation, and at the same time adopted pragmatism, placing their national economic interests as top priority," Han said. "An era of boundless competition and trade wars opened with the conclusion of the Uruguay Round. With the hastening of internationalization, global problems such as disarmament, human rights, environmental protection and the fight against poverty are becoming important issues," he said.

International relations in the post-cold war world shifted the focus from political and military affairs to economics and trade problems, the minister said. Seoul also places its emphasis on practical economic interests to join the world's advanced economic powers.

He recalled an agreement at last month's South Korea-U.S. summit for a "thorough and broad" approach to solving the North Korean nuclear problem.

While promising to keep to this principle, Han said that an international action such as by the United Nations Security Council was inevitable if North Korea did not come forward favorably in the dialogue efforts.

South Korea enhanced its ties with both Asia and the Pacific at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Seattle in November and the new year will see more participation by Seoul in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), especially in regional security dialogue, Han said.

Early Troop Pullout in Somalia Being Considered SK3112020993 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0130 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] On 31 December, the Defense Ministry decided that if a serious problem arises in safety problems and in supplying munitions because of sudden changes in Somalia, it will withdraw in advance the ROK Army's Sangnoksu unit which is carrying out UN peace keeping activities in Somalia. Originally, the ROK Army's Sangnoksu unit was to withdraw from Somalia in July of next year.

The decision for the withdrawal takes into consideration the safety of the ROK Army in Somalia. When considering the fact that the Defense Ministry showed hints for the possibility of early withdrawal rather than adhering to its policy that early withdrawal is impossible, there is high possibility that the troops will be withdrawn earlier than scheduled on the occasion of the withdrawal of U.S. troops stationed in the ROK which is slated for late March of next year.

Burma

Karen Spokesman: 'Fierce' Fighting With Rangoon

BK3112121693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] BANGKOK, Dec 31 (AFP)—About 1,000 Burmese troops and rebels of the Karen National Union have been involved in fierce fighting for the past 48 hours near the Thai border, a Karen spokesman said here Friday.

Troops of Burma's ruling State Law and Order Council (SLORC) "resumed their offensive against the Karen National Union on December 29," said KNU spokesman Arthur Shwe. He described the clashes as "fierce." "Casualties on both sides are not yet known," he said.

The fighting resumed as an attempt this month at political dialogue between the SLORC and opposition groups appeared to have aborted, political analysts said.

Burmese troops launched their assault on KNU positions around Saw Hta, about 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of Mannerplaw, the Karen headquarters and that of the Burmese opposition in exile, bordering Thailand.

It is the first major offensive ordered by the SLORC since January and is spearheaded by light infantry battalions 319 and 314 and No. 227 Regiment, said the Karen spokesman. It involves around 1,000 men, said Shwe.

"Fighting was still going on last night" said the spokesman who was receiving information from Mannerplaw.

The Karens, the second largest ethnic group after the Burmese, are mostly Christians and have been fighting for independence from Rangoon since 1947 when the former British colony became independent.

Concentrated largely in the south-east of the country, the Karens control large tracts of territory along the Thai border area.

In November the Burma Democratic Alliance, which groups about 20 opposition movements, met in Manner-plaw and agreed to try a dialogue with the SLORC.

But the SLORC refused to talk through the alliance and said it would only dialogue with the opposition movements individually.

Than Shwe Accepts Israeli Ambassador Credentials

BK2912144593 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Dec 93

[Text] Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] of the Union of Burma, accepted the credentials of Mr. Mordechai Karni, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Israel to the Union of Myanmar, at the Ministry of Defense's Dagon House at 1000 today.

Present at the occasion were Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, SLORC secretary-1; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; and Thura U Aung Htet, director general of Protocol Department.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Prime Minister Delivers New Year Message

BK0301101594 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Jan 94 pp 1, 2

[By Nuraina Samad]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Fri [31 December]—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said Malaysians must not run away from challenges facing the country and warned them not to make greed and excessive personal wants the driving force for moving ahead.

The Prime Minister said the country would progress further if the people adopted a moderate approach, were not greedy and careful in their outlook.

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia was successful because its people had not forgotten their struggle and objectives. He said this in his New Year message over Radio and Television Malaysia tonight.

The Prime Minister said the peace, stability, prosperity and progress now enjoyed by Malaysians did not come by accident. Much of it was the result of hard work and co-operation from all sides—the rakyat [people], Government, workers and entrepreneurs.

The concentration of efforts by everyone had helped Malaysia achieve encouraging performance in all fields throughout 1993, he said.

Dr. Mahathir said societies in any country wished for prosperity. This led to the creation of numerous theories and ideologies like socialism and communism as well as a welfare state system.

Wanting to have equality among the people is good but these ideologies do not take into account the human consideration.

"Equality among us exists only at birth, when we are all clean of any sins. Whether or not we succeed to become decent human beings when we grow up depends on our attitude and efforts.

"Others can help us. The Government can help us but in the end, what will bring us success is our own effort." Dr. Mahathir said this was why the people could not hope for society or the Government to provide all the facilities as promised by a western-style welfare state.

He said: "Having only one section of the people working hard and with full responsibility while others who have less work and responsibility enjoy similar wages is not a sound practice.

"If everyone is given equal benefits, no one will want to carry a heavy task. And there is no way to make work equally light."

Dr. Mahathir said attempts to provide an equal salary for different types of jobs would only obstruct progress.

"A country that does not progress and prosper will not be able to provide a good life for its people. What is easy to divide equally is poverty and a hard life."

A welfare state which depends on the forces of law will not succeed as one, which is why they, along with the communist and socialist states, are facing declining economies.

"But this does not mean that welfare states cannot exist at all. They can if the people who are capable and efficient are allowed to freely seek wealth.

"If a society has caring qualities and is always ready to donate to those in need, then a welfare state can exist. But the intention is not for those less fortunate to be as rich as the donors.

"The intention is to help those who have not succeeded, for whatever reason."

If this happens, then the gap between the poor and the rich would not be too wide, he said.

The Government would still have a role in a welfare state. It would impose taxes on the rich to help finance facilities which are used by all, he said.

But he pointed out that the taxes should not be too high that they would demoralise those who can increase their wealth.

"Those efficient in seeking wealth are useful to the welfare of society and country. Without them, or as in the communist countries where they are not allowed to amass wealth, there will be no one from whom the Government can collect taxes which could be utilised in the public's interest."

Dr. Mahathir said the theory that the Government could carry out business and reap all the profits and not just a part of it through taxes was baseless.

Businesses carried out by a government often face losses, especially if all its members and staff are paid equally as suggested by communism and socialism.

Moreover, the government bureaucratic system limits management from acting as a business operator. As such profits are difficult to obtain.

"The experience in Malaysia is that government companies need the government's help all the time."

Dr. Mahathir said government-owned companies often faced demands for pay hikes and threats of strikes from its workers.

"If the demands are not entertained, there is a possibility that the Government will not get the support when a general election is held. On the other hand, by entertaining the demands, losses will be greater or the prices of goods will increase.

"The Government's income will be reduced and it cannot finance supply for public interest," he said.

The Prime Minister said the Government, on the other hand, cannot seek excessive profits. Therefore, the Government as a business owner cannot pay good salaries to its employees.

"With a low pay, the people working with the government in a western welfare-style state, cannot afford expensive goods which normally give higher profits."

Dr. Mahathir drew attention to Malaysia's unique philosophy in which all sides are given suitable freedom because the Government believes that everyone—from manual workers to businessmen, investors, politicians and managers, had a role to play.

"They each have a different role but they all contribute to progress," he said.

Dr. Mahathir spoke of the rise of communism and socialism in the West during a time when investors, once regarded as highly important, became so greedy that they did not value the role of workers and managers.

But he cautioned that a communist and socialist society in which workers were given too much emphasis would not bring success and fairness.

Today, Dr. Mahathir said, the Western societies were putting too much value on managers who are believed to hold the key in the success of a business or operation.

Because of this, the managers demanded very high salaries with bonuses and share option schemes and all sorts of perks.

In Malaysia, a similar approach was developing. Managers were demanding high salaries and perks. He said that there had been instances when managers were demanding wages and other benefits valued at almost RM [Malaysian ringgit] 2 million a year.

He said it was this kind of a greedy approach that led to the big corporate giants in the United States to decline. They placed so much emphasis on quick profits that they did not invest in research and development or expansion.

The Prime Minister said: "We must remember that we all have a role to play. Whether we are manual labourers or owners of companies whether we are in the public or private sector, no one can consider himself more important that he does not depend on others.

"Big or small, we all have our roles to play. Therefore, we should place a value and appreciate every effort fairly."

Cambodia

Sihanouk on 'Successful' Treatment, Apr Return

BK3112034193 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 30 Dec 93

["Message" from His Majesty King Sihanouk in Beijing General Hospital; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Beloved brothers, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren; venerable monks headed by the Supreme Patriarchs Pouthiveang and Khousananda, wisemen, and nuns:

I would like to address this message to all of you. I would like all of you to know that I think about and love you very much. I do hope that on the occasion of our traditional New Year in April, I will be able to come back to be with you as before and to work together in order to build and defend the country in an atmosphere of mutual love, mutual trust, and mutual care as brothers in our great Cambodian family.

I was very happy to receive the delegation, with Samdech Chea Sim as its chairman and His Excellency [H.E.] Heng Samrin as its deputy chairman, which just visited me (?on behalf of) the nation and people. I and the queen miss our motherland and all our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren very much.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that the great Chinese friends have given me the best help. They have given our Cambodia, me and my family, and our people great friendship and genuine fraternity since time immemorial, now, and in the future. Moreover, this cancer treatment has been successful thanks to their efforts in scientific, technical, material, and all other fields. They have worked very meticulously and flawlessly, giving me good care (?so that) I will live longer to serve our Cambodian motherland. [Words indistinct] they said it would be completed (?this month). The reaction was good, there has been no difficulty. Many patients who are much younger than I am have suffered a bad effect after the third and fourth stages of the treatment because the medicine for curing cancer is very strong. This strong medicine causes the patient to lose strength, experience nausea, and have a headache or other bad effects. The great Chinese friends, however,

have sought special Chinese traditional medicine for me. These doctors have tried to find medicine for dealing with this disease according to each step of its condition. Moreover, they have bought modern medicine from abroad, such as the newly developed American drugs, to cure me as soon as possible so that I can return to our motherland.

It is expected that I will be able to return home in April, the month that we mark our traditional new year. Only two more phases of treatment are needed, that is, the fifth and sixth phases. After the sixth phase, there will be a recess of nearly a month in order to check results. After that, it seems that I will be allowed to leave.

(?In conclusion), I would like to tell you that I am quite concerned about some problems facing you, brothers, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. I have read our national newspapers, which my son-in-law, (Keo Put-reaksmei), sends me every week. Therefore, I have learned about all the big, medium, and small problems facing you. I would like to share all the woes you are facing. I always share your weal and woe and as our saying goes: Always share weal and woe together. My heart and soul always stay close to Cambodia, to all children and grandchildren, and to all venerables.

Samdech Chea Sim, our National Assembly chairman who is the acting head of state when I am not in the Kingdom of Cambodia, and H.E. Heng Samrin have made reports to me [words indistinct]. I would like to commend all patriotic children and grandchildren for always having good intentions toward our motherland, for bravely and patiently enduring all the shortcomings, and for working hard with all your strength and wisdom to serve the motherland and the livelihood of your families. This makes all of you worthy of being citizens of our independent and sovereign kingdom

I would like to tell you that I am satisfied with your decision to serve the rights and freedoms of our children and grandchildren in line with our Constitution; that is, our people's rights as the masters of our land, water [words indistinct]. Children and grandchildren (?have the) rights and freedoms [words indistinct] use policy of nonviolence. This means that there should be no quarrels, arguments, nor danger to the nation. The only question of violence is that with the Khmer Rouge, who have not yet understood that nonviolent policy. Except for the Khmer Rouge, our entire nation understands the need to use nonviolent methods—that is, peaceful means—in all circumstances. Therefore, I (?hope that) all children will be able to avoid serious disaster by using peaceful means and they will follow the appeal I made in various messages. [Words indistinct] with our National Assembly, government, various ministries and departments, and our soldiers. This is because they belong to all children and grandchildren, to all Cambodian people. Whether they are called the royal government or whatever, they are your government, the Cambodian people's

government. The government is called the royal government because our country is a kingdom. So, the word royal is added to everything just as in some countries like England.

This does not mean that the government serves only the king. It primarily serves the people. This is because the people own the vote and the power. Therefore, all children and grandchildren [words indistinct] peaceful means. I support you so long as it is a peaceful one. Demonstrations are a normal happening. It is [words indistinct]. In a liberal democratic system, demonstrations are regarded as ordinary happenings. Therefore, I support all of you in this undertaking so long as there is no (?violence), no bloodshed, no injury. All of this is no good. But your voicing opinions and asking for this and that are just ordinary things. They are good undertakings to arouse our government, our National Assembly, and our administration—both civilian and military—to always pay attention to you and your problems.

Concerning National Assembly members, [words indistinct] salaries, there will be problems. I know that there will be such problems. I told [words indistinct]. Now what I said was true [laughter]. Problems have taken place. Therefore, in my opinion, this matter must be resolved according to the majority of National Assembly members as well as the majority of citizens—what do they want it to be; how do they want it to be? Do listen to them. As with the doctors who are giving me the treatment [words indistinct]. Therefore, I dare not say how much, to what extent should their salaries, their earnings, be. All I want to tell you is that you should listen to (?the majority). [Words indistinct] teachers, nurses, medics, professors, and (?youths) also have similar problem. Therefore, a cordial discussion, cordial contacts between our people and our National Assembly, our government, and the various ministries is a good thing. I would like all children and grandchildren to continue such contacts.

That is all the information I have for you. I pray to the Lord Buddha's Triple Gems to please protect the Supreme Patriarchs, patriarchs, venerable monks, brothers, children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. May all of you always be blessed with longevity, social prestige, happiness, strength, and enlightenment. Thank you.

(?This is my message) to the compatriots through Samdech Chea Sim, H.E. Heng Samrin, and all excellencies in the delegation.

Khmer Rouge Radio on Phnom Penh's Attack Plans

BK0201065894 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Report on the preparations for offensives against the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] liberated zone in a gross manner of the cat's-paws of the Vietnamese communists and their allies.

- The king has advised all sides to meet, talk, and reconcile so as to move toward achieving peace in Cambodia and to build the national economy and people's livelihood.
- 2. Democratic Kampuchea and the Cambodian nation and people acclaim the king father's national reconciliation policy, support the king father's five-point political line, and keep persuading Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh to set up the technical group for communicating and discussing the national reconciliation issue, and so forth.
- 3. Hun Sen and the two-headed government keep calling for attacks to continue the war to smash the Khmer Rouge to pieces. This continued bellow by Hun Sen and the government with two heads and three eyes has resounded throughout the world. Various newspapers, news agencies, and radio-television broadcasts across the world have echoed this uproar by Hun Sen and his colleagues.

According to reports in various parts of the world, the two-headed government sent its co-ministers, Tie Banh and Tea Chamrat, to beg the Vietnamese communists' puppets in Laos to coordinate their attacks on the Khmer Rouge from Lao territory—from the northern border.

- 4. The Cambodian nation and people and the world ask: Who is attacking whom? Is the war which is being kindled in Cambodia not the continuation of the Vietnamese communists' war of aggression? Is this an endeavor to solve the Cambodian problem so as to bring peace to Cambodia and enable Cambodian people to live peacefully or is it an attempt to kill the Cambodian nation and people and to destabilize the situation in the region? From where does this fuel to spark the war come? Does it come from the Cambodian people; or does it come from the Vietnamese communists, who are implementing their strategy to annex Cambodia, and from the idiotic allies who are serving the Vietnamese strategy?
- 5. Who are responsible for the current attempt to continue war in Cambodia? It is the Vietnamese communists and their allies. It is no-one else but the Vietnamese communists' People's Party with Hun Sen and Chea Sim as (?ringleaders) and the two-headed-three-eyed government which must be held fully responsible for the nation, people, the current and next generations to come, and history.

Government-Khmer Rouge Fighting Breaks Out

KR Report Artillery Attack

BK3112044293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0413 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Excerpts] Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Dec 31 (AFP)—A Khmer Rouge [KR] field commander Friday reported heavy artillery fire in Cambodian provinces along the border with Thailand, saying Phnom Penh was preparing a major offensive next week.

Khmer Rouge Lieutenant General Sok Peab told reporters at a border site 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Aranyaprathet of fighting in Battambang and Bantay Meanchey provinces. He said the Khmer Rouge had received word that the government was preparing a major offensive for January 5-7, coinciding with the 1979 installation by Vietnam of a friendly government in Phnom Penh headed by Heng Samrin.

The government has brought up personnel, heavy arms and tanks for an offensive in the northern and eastern border provinces, but Khmer Rouge forces are ready to counter the offensive, Sok Peab said. [passage omitted]

Sok Peab reported fighting between Khmer Rouge and government forces in northeastern Cambodia, within 25 kilometers (15 miles) of the Thai border. Mortar and artillery fire could be heard at a great distance from the scene of the battles, he said. He gave no indication of casualties.

Troops Close In on KR Base

BK3112115693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1121 GMT 31 Dec 93

[By Kevin Barrington]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Dec 31 (AFP)—Some 2,000 government troops were gaining ground in the ongoing attack on the Khmer Rouge's headquarters at Anlong Veng in northern Cambodia, Minister of Information leng Muli said Friday.

"Our troops are getting closer and closer, the military pressure is working," leng Muli said, adding that he hoped the government troops would control the base within the next few days. The attack was a follow up to the offensive launched in central Kompong Thom province December 16 where government forces recaptured a number of Khmer Rouge bases.

The troops advanced from Kompong Thom towards Anlong Veng and now control almost half the area around the Khmer Rouge base which is the guerrilla faction's headquarters for all operations in north and central Cambodia.

The base was commanded by one-legged Khmer Rouge general Ta Mok, nicknamed "the butcher" because of his reputed cruelty when the Khmer Rouge was in power. He is now said to have fled Anlong Veng and set up a command base in Preah Vihear province where the Thai, Laotian and Cambodian borders meet.

Leng Sochea, an Information Ministry official, said the guerrillas had orders to break up into small groups to harass government forces and "to deploy as many landmines as possible."

A diplomat in the capital said the Khmer Rouge base would probably be empty when the government troops eventually took it. He said the government already faced major logistics problems in maintaining large numbers of troops in remote areas where access is difficult because of poor roads and landmines.

Meanwhile up to 100 Khmer Rouge attacked villages in the Choam Khsan district of Preah Vihear—near Ta Mok's fall-back base—on December 22, killing one villager and burning 30 homes, a military report said. The guerrillas struck again in the same area the following day destroying a further 16 homes before being repelled by government troops.

The assault on Anlong Veng comes as Prince Norodom Ranariddh said he had agreed with Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan to form a working committee to discuss implementing peace proposals put forward by King Norodom Sihanouk. Asked why the government attack was going on when the two sides had agreed to talk, a senior government official said "it's normal. When you start to negotiate you have to put your weight in the military side also."

He said the Khmer Rouge had refused to observe a ceasefire before the talks. "So it's up to them now. If they agree a ceasefire there will be no fighting," he added.

Fighting Continues Near Thai Border BK0101050494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0449 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Jan 1 (AFP)—Cambodian forces and Khmer Rouge guerrillas exchanged gun and mortar fire early New Year's Day after government troops attacked the faction's bases near the Thai border, a Thai army official here said. There was no immediate report of any casualties, the official said. Thai army and police at the border were placed on alert, he said.

The clash took place at Phoum Mahan, Phoum Malai and Dongsua Tai, about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Poipet, a Cambodian town on the other side of the border from Aranyaprathet, the official said. The incident was reported a day after Phnom Penh announced that it had launched a 2,000-troop assault on the Khmer Rouge's headquarters at Anlong Veng, on the northern Cambodian border with Thailand, about 180 kilometers (110 miles) northeast of Poipet.

The Khmer Rouge, blamed for the death of at least a million Cambodians during the 1970s, boycotted the U.N.-sponsored elections in Cambodia last year that saw the country become a constitutional monarchy under King Norodom Sihanouk.

The government has stepped up military pressure on the ultra-nationalist faction while at the same time promoting a peace initiative with it.

Peace Representatives Agreed

BK0201084694 Hong Kong AFP in English 0813 GMT 2 Jan 94

[By Kevin Barrington]

[Text] PHNOM PENH, Jan 2, (AFP)—Co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Sunday the government and the Khmer Rouge [KR] had agreed on representatives to negotiate a peace proposal, yet fighting escalated in northwest Cambodia.

A working committee would consist of two cabinet ministers, Sok An from the Cambodian Peoples Party and Veng Sereivut from FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful and Cooperative Cambodia], and Khmer Rouge officials Tep Khunnal and Chhuon Prasit, the prince said.

Sok An said he believed the meeting would take place soon, as the prince said the radical faction was eager to talk. But he admitted that despite the progress toward negotiations, fighting continued, although both sides were blaming the other as the aggressor.

"In some places the Khmer Rouge take the iniative to attack government positions and we have to defend ourselves," Sok An said.

Thai military officials however told a different story, saying government forces had attacked Khmer Rouge bases south of the border town of Poipet in the third consecutive day of clashes.

The information ministry acknowledged that government troops were still "keeping pressure" on the guerrillas in the area around the Khmer Rouge's headquarters at Anlong Veng in northern Siem Reap province.

"Our main aim is to defend government positions but that does not mean that we have to keep quiet. Sometimes we need to move first," Sok An said.

To be discussed by both sides is King Norodom Sihanouk's peace proposal, in which he suggests that "acceptable" Khmer Rouge members will be given senior cabinet posts if the guerrillas cease military activity, open their zones and merge their fighters with the national army.

During a recent clandestine meeting between Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan and Prince Ranariddh, both sides agreed to set up the working committee to discuss the implementation of the king's proposal. But the prince later questioned the rebel leader's sincerity, after Khieu Samphan would not first agree to a ceasefire.

"We are willing to end all problems by political means that's the government policy," said Sok An, adding that a ceasefire was a priority. "But first we have to stop the killing of the people."

But in a letter to Prince Ranariddh dated December 28, Khieu Samphan complained that the peace plan was being jeopardised by "a lot of political propaganda and military activities aimed at destroying Democratic Kampuchea (the Khmer Rouge)".

Another government minister admitted earlier a "political" dimension to the upsurge in fighting. "It's normal," he said. "When you start to negotiate, you have to put your weight in the military side also."

Thai military officials reported some 300 troops backed by two T-54 tanks attacked Khmer Rouge positions at Phum Kaedon, forcing about 1,000 people to flee towards nearby Thailand. The Thai army was on alert following the government's heavy mortar and artillery attacks on the Khmer Rouge on Saturday.

Khmer Rouge Take Site Near Border

BK0201150294 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 2 Jan 94

[Text] Fighting between Cambodian Government forces and the Khmer Rouge [KR] was reported at 0300 yesterday, about five kilometers from the Thai border, south of Chong Chuk Khamao, Tambon Bak Dai in Kap Choeng District, Surin Province. The Khmer Rouge opened fire again at 0530 on Prince Sihanouk's government forces at Chong Thmodon-Chong Klang, about one kilometer from the Thai border. As a result, about 150 Cambodian civilians and soldiers crossed the border into Thailand. The Khmer Rouge have taken control of Chong Thmodon-Chong Klang, the site of Prince Norodom Sihanouk's former palace.

After the clashes, the Suranari Task Force ordered soldiers of Infantry Unit 23, Border Patrol Police Unit 21, and territorial defense forces of Kap Choeng District, Surin Province, to provide initial help for the Cambodians. Reinforcements have been sent to guard the border and prevent the fighting from spilling over into Thailand.

Further on Khmer Rouge Attack

BK0301074494 Hong Kong AFP in English 0731 GMT 3 Jan 94

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan 3 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas injured five civilians and burnt down about a hundred homes in an attack on a former stronghold of the royalist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] Party in northwest Cambodia, government and military officials said Monday. An estimated 300-strong group of guerrillas attacked Rumchang in the Ampil district bordering Thailand early New Year's day, military officials said. The Khmer Rouge withdrew after several hours, the officials said, adding the government had sent reinforcements to the area.

The attack took place as government troops were conducting an offensive on Khmer Rouge positions further west, near the border town of Poipet.

Fighting had died down in the Poipet area Monday, but the situation remained tense after three days of battles between the government and the guerrillas, Thai army officials said.

Prior to the May U.N.-organised elections which brought FUNCINPEC into a coalition government with their former Phnom Penh foe, the Cambodian People's Party, Rumchang served as a base for royalist troops and current co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh maintained a residence in the area.

The prince's former residence was not burnt in the attack, a government official said.

FUNCINPEC was in alliance with the Khmer Rouge throughout the 13- year civil war which was brought to a formal end by the signing of the Paris peace agreement in October 1991.

Commentary Hails New Thai Stance on Relations

BK0201050894 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Commentary: "An Important Stance"]

[Text] Cambodia's concern about the attitude of the countries which still have contacts with the Khmer Rouge was an important topic during a recent summit meeting of top counselors from the Thai National Security Council and officials from the Thai Ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Defense.

The Thai officials attending the meeting concluded that Thailand should try its best to emphasize its attitude and intention [words indistinct] between the two countries. These Thai officials also called on the Thai Government to take (?steps) to assure Cambodia that the Thai Government fully supports the new Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] and that Thailand does not interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs.

This is another very important stance displayed by Thailand to contribute to the strengthening friendship and stability between the two countries, Cambodia and Thailand. They are moving forward in whichever direction toward national development.

During his recent visit to Cambodia, His Excellency [H.E.] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri also emphasized this matter.

We believe that if Thailand adheres to the current stance that it recognizes only the RGC, Thai Prime Minister Chuan Likphai's coming visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia will certainly achieve good results in strengthening the relations between the two countries [words indistinct]. Moreover, this will further weaken the Khmer Rouge rebels [words indistinct] who are attempting to renew the war.

Government Expects Food Shortages in 1994

Battambang, Kompong Chhnang

BK2912152593 Phnom Penh National Voice of Cambodia Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 29 Dec 93

[Text] According to the Kompong Chhnang Province agricultural service, the province could experience a shortfall of 3,627 tonnes of food next year. Floods and a prolonged drought after the last rainy season have caused the shortage, damaging more than 4,300 hectares of rice out of 72,850 hectares.

Mr. Sau Saroeun, deputy governor of Kompong Chhnang Province, said that the total rice yield for this year's dry and rainy seasons is only 76,000 tonnes for its population 300,000.

In addition, Battambang Province, which is the Kingdom of Cambodia's rice bowl, has encountered many great difficulties due to natural calamities. Over 12,980 hectares of young rice plants were damaged in the recent rainy season. Moung Russei, Battambang, and Sangke were the districts that suffered the most. The provincial agricultural service says the damage to young rice coupled with [words indistinct] the repatriated people, Battambang Province probably need between 15,000 and 20,000 tonnes of rice.

Kompong Thom Province

BK3012125593 Phnom Penh AKP in French 0410 GMT 27 Dec 93

[Text] Phnom Penh 27 Dec (AKP)—Kompong Thom Province will be short of nearly 930 tonnes of rice in 1994 with the most needy localities being Prasat Sambo, Stoung, and Sandan Districts and the provincial township, says the local agriculture department.

The food shortage is caused by the unstable situation in the region, floods, a prolonged drought, and harmful insects.

The province's rice production, which is estimated to be about 125,000 tonnes, will be far less than what is needed.

Indonesia

Suharto New Year Message on Goals for 1994

BK0101100594 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 31 Dec 93

[New Year address by President Suharto on 31 December; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the Most Compassionate and Most Merciful! My fellow countrymen! Peace be upon you all! We will leave 1993 in a few moments and enter the new year 1994. As in previous years, I would like to ask for your time on the eve of the new year to recall and consider together the significance of 1993 for the life and development of our nation. With a clear mind, let us draw valuable lessons from all events and experience throughout the year that will end soon! Let us wisely use the lesson as an asset to continue our journey as a nation!

We feel very happy for being able to leave 1993 with a sigh of relief and self-confidence. Thus, we will welcome 1994 with high hopes and spirits to continue our national struggle. Important domestic and foreign events that will have far-reaching implications on the coming decades occurred in 1993. We will leave 1993 by thanking God for allowing us to enjoy calm throughout the year. In other parts of the world, nations are suffering from disputes with others and internal upheavals, or are in the process of achieving national stability. We live in a changing world full of problems, challenges, and open opportunities.

My fellow countrymen! The General Congress of the People's Consultative Assembly [MPR] was held successfully and safely this year. This was a manifestation of our determination to consistently implement Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. The MPR issued a broad new outline of state policies that not only sets targets for the Sixth Five-Year Development Plan, but also a new national strategy for the country over the next 25 years. As a nation, we are determined to have a better future better than what we have already achieved. We are determined to promote our living standards, quality, and dignity. We will continue to develop our country to attain our aspirations. The government and people must make serious preparations to ensure that development programs in the coming years will achieve the desired results. We should continue to revamp the civil service and improve its services to the government. Efforts will continue to make the civil servants more effective, efficient, cohesive, and receptive to the people's dynamism, aspirations, and interests. The people in general and sociopolitical and mass organizations in particular should also undertake equally intensive efforts. The success of our future national development plans will depend primarily on the participation of the people. Accordingly, political communication between the people and their leaders-public figures and people's deputies-should be maintained consistently. There must be continuous and sincere political communication between the deputies and sociopolitical forces and the people in their respective constituencies.

Ladies and gentlemen! After two and a half decades, we now give a sigh of relief for having established a solid foundation for development. Subsequently, we will enter the takeoff period a few months from now.

Ideologically and politically, we have revamped our political institutions in accordance with Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Democracy continues to grow. We are responsibly and cautiously developing openness.

We now have the National Commission for Human Rights that will work independently. The commission will promote the universal and national concepts of human rights and monitor the implementation of human rights in the country. All this will freshen our quality of life and energize our national stability.

Let us take a look at economic issues. We registered high economic growth in 1993, while the inflation rate was kept below 10 percent. The volume and number of our exports increased. We consolidated our self-sufficency in rice, in addition to boosting agricultural development in general. Industrial progress was evident in the growing contribution of the industrial sector to economic development and export revenue. Trade, communications, tourism, and other sectors continued to make remarkable progress. Our economic progress has become all the more important in view of our past efforts to cool our overheating economy. We have developed many ideas and spent energy, time, and money to achieve the current level of progress. The government will continue to encourage our economic forces to play a dynamic role in development. We have achieved satisfactory progress in the sociocultural, defense, and security sectors.

We have achieved all this thanks to our solid political (?system), national resilience, and the success of development programs in all fields. Development and growth achieved through the end of 1993 has strengthened our conviction that a transition to the takeoff period will be smooth, calm, and orderly. It is this conviction that encourages us to welcome 1994. From 1994 onward, there will be challenges and hope. We must satisfy various increasing aspirations and needs. We must eradicate the poverty that plagues some of us. We must catch up with other nations that are already ahead of us. We live in the Asia-Pacific region, which has registered the fastest economic growth in the world over the past two decades. APEC [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation] has opened new opportunities. We must also be prepared for a new international trade system arising from the 1994 [as heard] GATT pact. Whether we will be able to exploit these opportunities for our own progress will depend on our own national strength. We must expand our economy further. Economic institutions, be they state enterprises, private companies, or cooperatives, should revamp themselves to enable our nation to compete with other nations economically.

My fellow countrymen! We regard 1993 as an important year because we will soon end the first 25-year long-term development scheme and enter a new era, which is the takeoff period, in 1994. By working hard, maintaining national unity and cohesion, and energizing national stability, let us enter 1994 with high hopes and strong determination!

We wish you all a happy 1994 and a Merry Christmas to all Christians! May God the Most Compassionate and Most Merciful always bless all of us! Thank you and peace be upon you again!

Thailand

'Constructive Engagement' With Burma To Continue

BK0301005794 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Jan 94 p A3

[Text] Thailand will continue implementing Asean's constructive engagement policy towards Burma, which has shown positive signs of returning to democracy, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said.

Rangoon had also expressed an interest in participating in Asean activities, including the Asean annual conference in July next year.

"Thailand's foreign policy for 1994 will continue give priority to neighbouring countries, particularly Burma, as the situation in the other countries such as Cambodia is improving to a satisfactory level," the minister said.

He repeated his earlier assertions that Laos, Vietnam, Burma and Cambodia should become more involved in the Asean forum. Laos and Vietnam have observer status; Cambodia was invited as "guest" to last year's Asean meeting in Singapore.

There was strong opposition within Asean until recently to Thai proposals to invite Rangoon to the annual meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Bangkok in July, due to its record of human rights violations and refusal to hand over administrative power to a government elected in the May 1990 general polls.

According to Prasong, Singaporean Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, during his recent visit to Bangkok, had shown a "positive response" to Bangkok's move to invite Rangoon to the July meeting. He did not elaborate. However government spokesman Aphisit Wetchachiwa told reporters during Goh's visit that Singapore preferred the issue be considered by the Asean senior officials meeting.

Prasong unofficially invited Burma to attend the annual Asean meeting as a "guest" during an official visit to Rangoon in September to co-chair the first Thai-Burma Joint Commission meeting. Burmese leaders said then they needed more time to consider the matter.

The minister, a former head of the National Security Council, reiterated his belief that a constructive engagement policy is more effective than trade sanctions as a means of encouraging Burma towards democracy.

The House Committee on human rights and justice recently sent a letter to members of Asean's Inter-Parliamentary Organization (IPO), asking them to push their governments to set conditions before accepting Burma into the six-nation regional grouping.

Some 20,000 Thai Workers Said Still in Libya

BK3112070093 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] The government has appointed an agent to send workers abroad without charging fees. The agent, with the minister of labor and social welfare as its [as heard] head, has been set up to cope with the problem of high commission charged by private agents. Deputy Minister of Labor and Social Welfare Phaithun Kaeothong says there is no serious incident at present in Libya. Therefore, Thai workers can continue their work there. He says about 2,000 Thai workers returned home recently because their contracts expired. There remain some 20,000 Thai workers there. Mr. Phaithun says that his ministry will cooperate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in sending representatives of the committee on labor problem to meet Thai workers in Libya soon.

Ministry Raises Tapioca Export Quotas for EU BK3112032193 Bangkok THE NATION in English 31 Dec 93 p B1

[Excerpt] Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon yesterday in another surprise move gave the exporters the right to sell as much as half of their tapioca stocks to the high-priced market in the European Union (EU). The allocation covers a total of 550,000 tonnes. THH Group is expected be the biggest beneficiary of the latest allocation. It will receive as a result an export quota of 155,179 tonnes for the EU market.

In the past, the ministry allowed exporters to sell about 20 to 30 per cent of their stocks in the EU market because it wanted to exporters [as published] to share the EU export quota as much as possible. But because of the latest round of allocation, the EU export quota for 1994 at about 2 million tonnes of tapioca will, in the next four rounds of allocation, have to be divided into lots of 500,000 tonnes.

The ministry will allocate the quota according to the stock volume of each exporter, based on the volume derived from the first stock checking round. THH Group reported the largest stocks with a total of 337,322 tonnes of tapioca.

THH Group is also expected to receive almost Bt [baht] 60 million from the commerce ministry through its subsidy programme, under which the ministry will pay Bt200 per every tonne that tapioca stocks increased between two inspections.

In 1994, the last year of the current four-year bilateral agreement between Thailand and the EU, the commerce ministry will allocate 60 per cent of the remaining quota of 4.3 million tonnes, or 2.6 million tonnes, according to the volume of stock held by exporters. The other 1.746 million tonnes will be distributed as bonus quotas for exporters who sell to lower-priced markets outside the EU. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Delivers New Year Address

BK0101093594 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1300 GMT 31 Dec 93

[New Year message by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Dear fraternal Thai people, on the auspicious occasion of the approaching new year, 1994, on behalf of the government I wish to invite you to convey greetings to their majesties the king and queen and members of the royal family. May the power of the three gems and all sacred things in the universe protect them and provide them with prosperity, happiness, and long life so that they will remain figures beloved by the Thai people forever.

Fraternal Thai people, in 1993 the world situation has been improving steadily. This is because most countries have paid strong attention to the development of democracy and upholding human rights. At the same time, the arms race has been replaced by investment in economic benefits and improvement in the quality of life. This has resulted not only in happiness for the majority of the world's population, but has helped to steadily improve the international economy. Although the improvement of the international economy has not reached the level expected, it obviously exceeded that of the previous year.

Regarding our country, although there were two major tragedies in the middle of 1993 which resulted in many deaths, the compassion and cooperation of the Thai people enabled the tragedies to be less severe than they might have been. The tragedies serve as valuable lessons for those concerned that they must be aware of their responsibilities and duties. The lesson is that if a problem is created, its effects will eventually surface.

Fraternal Thai people, the general situation in 1993 was relatively peaceful and there was some progress. Data from the public and private sectors agree that the Thai economy was in a recovery stage. Economic growth increased in comparison with the previous year. This recovery demonstrates a degree of success of the government's efforts to tackle the continued recession, which resulted in reduced investment, as we all know. The government measures, however, particularly investment promotion measures and the development of Thailand into the regional financial center, as well as proper management of the capital market, have created confidence among local and foreign investors. This has resulted in private sector investment increasing 5.8 percent in 1993, compared with 0.9 percent in the previous year.

A welcome point in this investment is that part of it occurred in the regional areas, corresponding with the government's prosperity distribution policy which the government worked on earnestly throughout the year. The statistics show clearly that after the announcement of the prosperity distribution policy, about 1,200 investors applied for investment promotion privileges, a

three-fold increase over the previous year. Total investment was about 300 billion baht and generated nearly 300,000 jobs. Of this investment, 60 percent was in Zone 3, which encompasses 60 regional provinces.

Another important measure in the prosperity distribution policy is the care for the farmers, who make up the poorest group of the population. Three examples of the government's concrete action in this regard are:

First, the government carried out land reform, issuing land use documents to farmers for 4.5 million rai of land. This is more than the total land reform achieved in the previous 18 years.

Second, the government increased the budget allocation for construction of small water sources from 3.3 billion baht in 1992 to 6.6 billion baht in 1993. This allocation will increase to 9 billion baht in 1994.

Third, the farmers' production costs have been lowered by cutting the loan interest rate to 5 percent on average for farmers who joined the production structure readjustment project. Low-priced fertilizer—about 25 percent cheaper than the market price—was also supplied to farmers. Some 300,000 tons of this fertilizer were available in 1993, compared with 80,000 tons in 1992. Some 500,000 tons will be available in 1994.

Fraternal Thai people, many foreign and local institutions in the government and private sectors predict that Thai economic growth will go even higher in 1994. I wish to say to you that although such growth figures are a good sign, the government will not be complacent and will try to spread this growth among people in all sectors. It will adhere to the policy of distributing prosperity to the regional and rural areas, as mentioned in its policy statement to parliament. It will do its best to make this increase in national revenue go to the people in the regional and rural areas so that they will be able to eventually help themselves.

Therefore, the central task of rural and agricultural development in 1994 will be to adjust cultivation methods to meet market demands. This will raise the incomes of the farmers and reduce the risks associated with their occupation. The government has allocated 13.5 billion baht for this purpose in 1994. Some 40 billion baht will be allocated through 1996 for continued efforts in this regard. Farmers have called loudly for implementation of this program. In addition, the government will act to stabilize prices for major crops.

Regarding social and environment development, the government will give assurances for the continued development of human resources and the quality of life. It has allocated nearly 100 billion baht for this purpose. Some 74 billion baht have been earmarked for health care. Some 23.5 billion baht will go for expansion of education opportunities. For environmental conservation, restoration, and development, some 11 billion baht have been allocated. Violators of environmental law and those who intentionally destroy environmental and national

resources will be prosecuted. I have emphasized often that industrial decentralization must not amount to spreading destruction among the people in the regional areas.

Regarding workers, the government established the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in late 1993 to oversee and protect the benefits of workers, promote their welfare, and develop their skills. In 1994 emphasis will be given to the protection of child labor, woman labor, and Thai workers abroad, as well as arranging an appropriate social security system, as evidenced by the government's submission of the social security bill, the compensation fund bill, and the job placement and workers protection bill for the consideration of parliament.

Fraternal Thai people, 1994 will be a year of hope for people around the world. In particular, the recent successful conclusion of the GATT negotiations can be regarded as a New Year gift for the whole world. This is because the GATT accord will enable trade to become more free, which will benefit every country in general. Thailand is expected to gain some benefits, but how much will depend on our ability to compete in the international arena. On the government's side, it will adjust the direction and mechanisms so that the country will be best able to compete. As for the private sector, whose adjustment is more rapid, I am confident that it has prepared to cope with the new international situation.

Regarding the drought and water shortage which is the concern of everyone, I wish to emphasize that the government has prepared many measures. These measures may not be effective without the cooperation of the people. Therefore, to enable all of us to overcome this crisis, I wish to appeal to you to pay attention and cooperate with the measures which the government will announce from time to time.

Regarding the drought, the government is grateful to the suggestions for long-term solutions to the water shortage which the king enunciated on his birthday anniversary, particularly the urgent projects to build dams on the Pa Sak, Nakhon Nayok, and Pak Phanang Rivers. I and the government will adopt these suggestions and pledge to the people that they will accelerate these projects.

Fraternal Thai people, on the anniversary of the 50th year of the king's enthronement in 1996, the government has planned major celebrations, which the king has given the name: Kanchanaphisek. The government has appointed a committee to plan these honorable and customary celebrations. It will invite the people to participate in the creation of a memorial or other objects as gifts for the king. The government will make announcements soon on this matter.

Fraternal Thai people, in 1993 the government spent considerable time explaining and solving various problems through the parliament and its mechanism. There were two ordinary sessions and two extraordinary sessions in the same year, which was unprecedented, considering that two annual budgets have to be deliberated in the same year. The government presented 48 bills for parliamentary consideration. Thanks to the cooperation of parliament, 29 bills were promulgated into law, which have contributed to the government's solution of the country's problems and to its national development efforts.

In any event, the solution of national problems in accordance with the parliamentary democracy system may feel to some people to be too time-consuming. I wish to explain that it is not right to solve problems in a superficial and biased manner. The ancillary issues within the entire system must be considered in the search for long-term effective solutions. It is undesirable to enact a short-term solution to a problem which will invite negative repercussions in the future. The principle of righteousness must be upheld, although to do so may run against the prevailing current of thought. I am confident that if we solve problems basing the solutions on rationality and technical knowledge, we will be successful and see good results for the country in the long term.

In any event, I agree that there are areas on which action has been taken that has not achieved the level of progress desired. This includes the solution of the traffic congestion in Bangkok. More than 400 additional cars enter the streets daily. For long-term results, there will have to be other solutions, not just limiting the city's growth. I pledge to march forward to effectively solve the outstanding problems and give the assurances that the government will administer the country honestly, keeping the interests and happiness of people in all sectors in mind.

On this New Year, the cabinet and I invoke the power of the three gems and sacred beings, as well as the might of their majesties the king and queen, to provide each of you happiness and prosperity in 1994 and forever after.

Goodbye.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Year's Events

BK0101031094 Bangkok THE NATION in English 1

Jan 94 p A1

[Report by Phiyanat Siwalo and Chatri Saengpeng on "end-of-year interview" with Prime Minister Chuan Likphai; place and date not given]

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai has vowed to maintain his low-key style of politics, despite the criticism it drew in 1993, maintaining that what others see as an "aloofness" is actually respect for his allies' decisions and his belief that ministers should be allowed to settle their own problems.

Chuan said his hands-off politics is acceptable in a democratic system and he would prove it workable, even though the mass media often accused him of remaining aloof from the problems of the other coalition partners.

"I have always to keep in mind how a coalition government of five partners can stay together and work together," Chuan told THE NATION in an end-of-year interview.

"I have to respect every Cabinet member and entrust them all with power and responsibilities in their respective ministries. I don't have the time to do everything myself."

However, as premier, he would share the responsibility if any Cabinet members failed to perform to expectation.

Two incidents during the past year which led to criticism that Chuan was staying aloof from problems were the controversial removal of Pol Gen [Police General] Sawat Amonwiwat as police chief and the suspension of Permanent Secretary for Commerce Phatchara Itsrasena.

Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut catalyzed a series of controversies and protests from policemen when he initially seconded Sawat to an inactive post and eventually fired him.

After nearly a month of squabbling Chuan finally intervened, and Sawat was reinstated and immediately transferred to the post of inspector general at the Interior Ministry.

Commerce Minister Uthai Phimchaichon suspended Phatchara from duty pending the outcome of a lawsuit filed against him by an oil importing company.

Chuan said he could not step in immediately whenever problems occurred because he had to allow the respective ministers to try to solve the matters first.

"It's rather had to work as a coalition government. We have to respect our working partners and when problems happen we have to share responsibility," Chuan said.

"In fact, I've helped settle problems in other agencies several times. But I've had to keep a low profile and not seek publicity.

"If I had solved other people's problems and then announced that those particular ministries had problems which I had cleared up, the respective ministers would lose face. I won't do that."

He said sometimes the partners' platforms might contradict each other, but a compromise could be reached if all parties adhered to the government's announced policies. But Chuan said he did wish he had known in advance of Uthai's decision to suspend Phatchara, as he would have objected.

"The only issue that I have not known of in advance is the suspension of Phatchara on grounds that a lawsuit had been filed against him. Had I known, I would not have allowed it." The prime minister said he has faith in democracy, and believes it will always provide the means to solve the country's problems.

"As long as we don't create the conditions, like corruption, history will not repeat itself. Now, people well understand the democratic system and everybody feels involved in it. The people feel much closer to an elected government."

Chuan said the past year had proved that rumours about a House dissolution remained only "rumours".

"I've always told the public not to believe rumours. Only I can seek a Royal command to dissolve the House and it's never occurred to me to do it," Chuan said.

"Rumours about a House dissolution spread several times in the past year and only proved that rumours are rumours."

The prime minister blamed speculators for spreading the rumours in a bid to force share prices down so they could buy cheap stocks.

On the economics front, the prime minister said the government had been successful in running the country during the past year, shoring up the business sector's confidence.

This confidence and the healthy economic situation in the world market had contributed to the country's growth.

This year, he said, the government will work to maintain and increase that growth.

King Phumiphon Delivers New Year Message

BK3112152493 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1300 GMT 31 Dec 93

[New Year Message by King Phumiphon Adunyadet—recorded]

[Text] Thai people, the New Year is an occasion when we should be thinking of each other and wishing each other happiness and the fulfilment of his aspirations. I convey my good wishes to everyone and thank you very much for your good cooperation and support in all my endeavors.

In the past year several abnormal events occurred, including the simultaneous events of drought and flooding. Some of these abnormal events caused anxiety and concern, while some greatly affected the livelihood, occupation, and economy of individuals and the country. However, because most of us have good sense, perseverance, strong mind, and compassion, we were able to cooperate to alleviate the severity of these events.

These abnormal events should make you realize that in a person's life he is going to face danger, obstacles, good as well as bad luck. No one will be able to live happily forever. Everyone must prepare his mind and body to be

ready to cope with and recover from abnormalities and problems, using rationality, sound knowledge, righteousness, thoroughness, and the power of unity.

I strongly wish that everyone is aware of and truly understands the country's situation. That is, our country now needs efficient and urgent development so that it will fully benefit from its resources and from every Thai person's labor and intelligence. There can be no delay for any reason, because whatever benefits that could be gained will be wasted. In this era, such a waste is a loss.

We can all help by being determined to uphold national interests as the goal. Selfish interests and disputes over nonsensical matters must be minimized. One must quickly perform and complete his duties to the best of his ideas, knowledge, ability and to do so with sincerity, kindness, a sense of unity, and good intention toward others. In this way, the achievements of everyone will consolidate into happiness, security, and prosperity of the country, which is our ultimate goal.

May the power of the three gems and all sacred beings in the universe protect you from all danger and evil and endow you with good and strong health, mind, and wisdom to successfully carry out all your activities that benefit yourself, the country, as well as its independence, freedom, and happiness forever. May everyone of you enjoy happiness and prosperity and the fulfillment of your wishes.

'Major Shakeup' in Police Department Approved

BK3112030793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
31 Dec 93 p 3

[Text] The Police Service Commission yesterday approved a major shakeup involving 130 top policemen to complement a new police structure to come into effect as of January 23. Under the reshuffle list approved at yesterday's meeting of the commission chaired by acting police chief Prathin Santipraphop, six police commissioners will be promoted to become assistant police directors-general.

They are Narcotics Suppression Bureau chief Kowit Phakdiphum, Personnel Bureau chief Michai Nukunkit, Central Investigation Bureau [CIB] chief Thanu Homhuan, Logistics Bureau chief Wirun Funsaen, Metropolitan Police chief Chamlong Iamchaengphan and Border Patrol Police [BPP] chief Chatchai Chai-arun.

Pol Lt-Gen [Police Lieutentant-General] Chamlong is expected to be replaced at the city police headquarters by Pol Lt-Gen Chaiyasit Kanchanakit, currently an inspector-general.

Second, Third and Fourth Region Provincial Police Commissioners Prachit Saengsubin, Nopphakao Tunyasiri and Kraisuk Sinsuk will become commissioners serving as deputy chiefs of the regional police headquarters.

First Region Provincial Police Commissioner Suriya Moranon will be made commissioner attached to the Police Department and responsible for coordinating with the National Security Council.

Deputy BPP Commissioner Kowit Watthana will be promoted the BPP chief. Third Region Provincial Police chief Charuk Mekwichai will be commissioner of the Immigration Bureau.

Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner Thirachai Riancharoen, Fourth Region Provincial Police Deputy Commissioners Sarot Chintawirot and Sunthon Saikhuan, CIB deputy chief Chamnan Suwankit, and First Region Provincial Police Deputy Commissioner Khet Nimsombun will become commissioners serving as deputy chief of the regional police headquarters.

Crime Suppression division [CSD] chief Luan Panrotsathip will become assistant CIB chief and will be succeeded at the CSD by Pol Maj-Gen [Police Major General] Wannarat Khotcharat, commander of the Southern Bangkok Metropolitan Police headquarters.

Vietnam

Party, State Leaders Greet Cuba's Castro

BK3112064793 Hanoi VNA in English 0558 GMT 31

Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 31—Vietnamese party and state leaders today sent a message of greetings to Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, president of the State Council and the Council of Ministers, on the 35th national day of Cuba (Jan. 1)

The message, jointly signed by Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, Le Duc Anh, president of the state and Vo Van Kiet prime minister, said:

"Over the past 35 years, the Cuban people under the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba headed by yourself, gained great achievements in their cause of national construction and defence. The recent difficulties and challenges further make the Cuba people and leaders persistent in their socialist ideals, further promote their determinations and creativeness in order to reach revolutionary targets by effective policies and measures".

"The Vietnamese party and state leaders reaffirmed Vietnam's determination to stand side by side with the Cuban people and expressed firm belief that the Cuba people's just cause would be successful. [no end quotation mark as received]

The same day, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh also extended his greetings to President of Cuba's National Assembly of People's Power Ricardo Alarcon de Quesasa.

Gathering Celebrates Cuban National Day

BK3012152493 Hanoi VNA in English 1439 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec 30—A mass meeting was held here today by the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations (UPSFO) and the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association on the occasion of the 35th national day of Cuba (Jan. 1):

Prominent at the meeting's Presidium were Nguyen Duc Binh, Politburo member and secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee (CPV CC), Do Van Tai, deputy head of the CPV CC's Commission for External Relations and Le Mai, deputy foreign minister.

Cuban Ambassadress to Vietnam Mrs. Tania Maceira Delgado was also invited to join the Presidium.

Speaking at the function, Mrs. Tran Thi Thanh Thanh, member of the CPV CC, cabinet minister and president of the Vietnam-Cuba Friendship Association, spoke highly of the significance of the historical day of the fraternal Cuban people. She renewed the Vietnamese people's unchanged solidarity with the Cuban people in their just cause to defend national independence, sovereignty and dignity. "The Vietnamese people resolutely as the U.S. Government to put an end to its embargo against Cuba. We believe that the Cuban people will overcome temporary difficulties at present", Mrs. Thanh stressed.

In her reply, Ambassadress Tania D. Delgado said:

"The relationship between Cuba and Vietnam is a fine, specific history. Though being a poor country, Vietnam has launched many campaigns in solidarity with Cuba... We believe that such things show not only the fraternity, sympathy and confidence but also sentiments of a heroic nation".

A meeting was held in the same vein in Ho Chi Minh City on Dec. 29. Complete with a painting and photo exhibiton on the heroic Cuban people.

Ninth National Assembly Session Closes 30 Dec

Chairman Addresses Closing Session

BK3112141793 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] After working for 21 days, the Fourth Session of the Ninth National Assembly held its closing session today.

In the morning, after continuing debate on the bill on business bankruptcy, the National Assembly voted to pass the resolution on redrawing the administrative boundaries of the Deo Ca Pass-Vung Ro Lagoon Area between Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa Provinces, the resolution approving the final balance of the 1992 state budget, and the resolution on legislative work for 1994. In the afternoon, the National Assembly voted to pass the resolution on the 1994 state budget estimates and the resolution on the movement for thrift and against waste, corruption, and smuggling. The National Assembly also voted to pass the Law on Business Bankruptcy and the resolution on tasks for 1994.

Finally, National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh delivered a speech concluding the Fourth Session of the Ninth National Assembly. He evaluated the results of the session and pointed out the achievements made by our party, people, and soldiers in the socioeconomic field this year. At the same time, he also pointed out limitations, shortcomings, and difficulties that the entire country must strive to overcome in the coming period.

National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh said:

[Begin recording] Stemming from the aforementioned situation, and in view of the new situation, the National Assembly discussed and passed the resolution on tasks for 1994, the resolution on the 1994 state budget estimates, the resolution approving the final balance of the 1992 state budget, and the resolution on the movement for thrift and against waste, corruption, and smuggling. These are important documents. The National Assembly outlined major and practical measures to mobilize forces and concentrate the energy and resources of the entire country on socioeconomic construction and development and on restoring national order and discipline. It also clarified the responsibility of the National Assembly Standing Committee, government, departments, echelons, National Assembly deputies, and citizens with regard to implementing these resolutions.

We have to affirm that the fight against corruption and smuggling is a continuous fight for all of society. We must be resolute in obliterating this harmful practice gradually, thus creating a healthy environment for socio-economic development and for the construction of a law-abiding Vietnamese Government of the people, by the people, and for the people. The first task is gradually to build and perfect a uniform legal system that will concretize the party's renovation line in all fields of social life.

During this session, the National Assembly passed the Law on Environmental Protection, a law amending and supplementing some articles of the Law on Organization of People's Courts, and the Law on Business Bankruptcy. These are important and necessary laws to create a legal foundation for socioeconomic development and provide a guarantee for business activities, accelerate national renovation, and protect our living environment.

The National Assembly also evaluated the past legislative situation and the resolution on legislative work for 1994. It offered opinions and directions for the legislative program spanning from 1995 until the end of the official term of the Ninth National Assembly. It also outlined the draft labor code and the draft law on the state budget. The National Assembly tasked responsible

organs with conducting further studies before presenting these bills at the next session.

The National Assembly highly evaluated our government's 1993 foreign affairs activities, which actively contributed to the common struggle of people around the world for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress. This was done in the spirit of Vietnam seeking friendship with all nations in the world community that are striving for peace, independence, and development. In order to develop these achievements in the future, we will accelerate the implementation of our foreign policy, which stresses independence, sovereignty, diversification of multilateral relations, and consolidation of the friendship and multi-faceted relations will all nations-especially our neighbors, countries in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, and international organizations. This will create more favorable conditions for our national construction and protection.

Having been a victim for centuries of human rights violations committed by invading forces, our government and people are very earnest about independence and freedom. We are resolute in fully observing the fundamental rights of human beings, which are regulated by the 1992 Constitution.

Dear National Assembly deputies, with a sense of national pride and in order to develop our tradition of diligence and creativeness, our entire Army and people are determined to overcome all difficulties and challenges and carry out the directions and tasks for 1994 as outlined in the National Assembly resolutions. These are: To solidify achievements made in our renovation; move ahead with industrialization and modernization; grasp opportunities for rapid acceleration of the economic development rate, so as to bring our country into a new period of development; create an important change in the fields of culture and society; maintain political stability; broaden our foreign relations; and protect our national independence, sovereignty, and integrity.

In that spirit, the National Assembly calls on people and soldiers across the country as well as our overseas compatriots to unite in heart and in strength, quickly grasp opportunities, eliminate all dangers, practice thrift in production and consumption, increase development investment for material production, and mobilize their resources and abilities to make our country even more beautiful than our beloved President Ho Chi Minh hoped.

Dear National Assembly deputies, the success of the Ninth National Assembly's Fourth Session is the result of the active contributions of the government, National Assembly deputies, National Assembly organs, related government organs, and voters in the country. The National Assembly sincerely thanks high-level leading comrades, revolutionary senior citizens, and former National Assembly deputies for their keen interest and their opinion during this session. It welcomes the efforts

exerted by mass media agencies in their timely reflection of the National Assembly's vivid activities, which met the interests of people inside and outside the country. It thanks the wholehearted and enthusiastic contributions of all organs that provided services during this session.

As we enter 1994, I warmly wish the National Assembly deputies, distinguished guests, people, and soldiers across the country—as well as our overseas compatrious—a new year of good health and happiness so as to record more achievements. I declare the Fourth Session of the Ninth National Assembly closed. Thank you. [end recording]

The Army band then played the national anthem, ending the Fourth Session of the Ninth National Assembly.

Communique on Closing Session

BK3112094193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Communique issued by the Ninth National Assembly's Fourth Session in Hanoi on 30 December]

[Text] The National Assembly held a plenary session in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall on 30 December 1993. National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu directed the morning sitting, while National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh directed the afternoon sitting.

The deputies continued to debate the Law on Business Bankruptcy. Mai Thuc Lan, director of the National Assembly Economy and Budget Committee, delivered a report on behalf of the National Assembly Secretariat, the Law Review Committee, and the Law Compiling Committee summarizing the views expressed by deputies during the 29 December session and the planned amendments to the draft Law on Business Bankruptcy. A total of 11 deputies expressed different views on the draft document, including: Pham Phu from Ho Chi Minh City, Nguyen Duc Hoan from Quang Tri, Tang Van Nghi and Nguyen Viet Dung from Ha Bac, Phung Van Toan and Le Dinh Thanh from Vinh Phu, Pham Hung from Hai Hung, Nguyen Duy Oanh from Lam Dong, Tran Quang Ngoc from Nam Ha, Nguyen Van Tu from Dong Nai, and Ton That Bach from Hanoi.

The National Assembly Secretariat, the Law Review Committee, and the Law Compiling Committee reviewed the draft Law on Business Bankruptcy once more based on the deputies' views. Ly Tai Luan, vice chairman of the National Assembly Economy and Budget Committee and member of the National Assembly Secretariat, read the text of this draft document. The deputies adopted the Law on Business Bankruptcy by a vast majority of votes. The promulgation of this law is of great importance and significance because it protects the legitimate rights and interests of creditors, debtors, and all parties concerned and defines the

responsibilities of debtors with regard to business bankruptcies. This will contribute to guaranteeing effective business operations and securing social order.

Afterward, the National Assembly heard the following:

- —National Assembly Secretariat head Vu Mao read the text of the draft resolutions on tasks for 1994; the movement for thrift and against waste, corruption, and smuggling; and the 1994 legislative work program.
- —National Assembly Secretariat member Ly Tai Luan read the text of the draft resolutions on the 1994 state budget estimates and approving the final balance of the 1994 [as heard] state budget.
- —National Assembly Secretariat member Nguyen Van Yeu read the text of the draft resolution on redrawing the administrative boundaries of the Deo Ca Pass-Vung Ro Lagoon area between Phu Yen and Khanh Hoa Provinces.

After a number of deputies expressed their views, the National Assembly adopted the aforementioned draft resolutions by a vast majority of votes.

After a closing speech by National Assembly Chairman Nong Duc Manh, the Fourth Session of the Ninth National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam concluded at 1730 on 30 December 1993 as the music of the national anthem was played by a military band.

Work Concluded at Session Reviewed

BK3012145793 Hanoi VNA in English 1448 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA Dec. 30-The fourth session of the Ninth National Assembly [NA] closed here today after 25 days' sitting. The National Assembly passed the solution on the assessment of the situation in 1993 and another on the tasks for 1994. The National Assembly held that Vietnam's economy continued changing for the better, a number of economic targets were met or fulfilled an important step was made in the overcoming of socio-economic crisis, the country's political stability was maintained and consolidated, external relations oroadened and Vietnam's prestige was raised. However, the NA deputies noted, the economy showed many weak points, corruption and smuggling became serious orders in the social and economic management were loosen, and not a small number of pressing questions in sociocultural field have not been solved yet.

The National Assembly defined the goals for 1994 including the 8 GDP growth rate [as received], industrial output value increase of 11, agricultural output value increase of 4, export value increase of 20, food output of 25 million tonnes, under 10 inflation rate, and decreased population growth rate to 0.06.

The National Assembly approved the social and economic measures stated in the government's report: The National Assembly passed three laws on environmental protection, bankruptcy of businesses, and supplements and amendments to a number of articles of the law on organization of people's court. The law on environmental protection focuses on the prevention of the degradation and pollution of environment and environmental disasters. The law aims to prevent and overcome aftermaths of impacts by mankind and nature on environment, manage and limit the introduction of backward technology into production which may cause harm to environment, control exploitation activities and rationally utilise environment in service of the country's development.

The law on business bankruptcy deals with authorized offices to solve bankruptcy cases, definition of bankruptcy cases, consideration of bankruptcy cases, debt payment and remaining property share, state-run business bankruptcy and responsibility toward state-run business bankruptcy.

The law on amendments and supplements to some articles of the law on the organization of the people's court provides for the establishment of specialised economic courts within the supreme court and courts at provincial and municipal level. The law also deals with the empowerment to judge economic disputes in economic courts within the Supreme People's Court System.

The National Assembly gave opinions on the draft labour code and the draft law on the state budget which are expected to be amended for approval in the next National Assembly session.

VNA Notes Import-Export Statistics for 1993

BK0101143194 Hanoi VNA in English 1421 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA 29—Vietnam saw development in import-export activities for 1993. The export value is estimated at USD [U.S. dollars] 3 billion, an increase of 20 per cent over last year.

One of remarkably increased exports is aquatic products. In 1993, total output of aquatic products is estimated at about 1.4 million tonnes, including two-thirds of products for export worth USD 350 million. The export value increases 22 percent compared with that of last year. Many frozen aquatic products and specialities such as cuttlefish, shrimps and crabs are sold well in foreign markets.

Also in 1993 Vietnam exported 1.8 million tonnes of rice. From a country which was always suffered from shortage of food, Vietnam now ranks third among rice export country in the world. Notably, the amount of high quality rice has increased year after year.

Besides the export of rice and aquatic products, Vietnam's exports of textile and garment products to EC market presented a great part among goods exported to EC. According to the trade agreement with the EC in 1993 Vietnam is due to export to the EC 151 categories

so far, 93 businesses are engaged into production of 53 categories, mostly jackets and shirts.

By early December 1993, the Vietnam National Oil Equipment and Technology Import Corporation (Petechim) has pumped the twenty millionth tonne of crude oil. Since 1987 Petechim has exported 18 million tonnes of crude oil. Besides, Vietnam has also exported agricultural products, foodstuff, consumer goods such as tea, coffee, fresh fruits, leathershoes... This year, Vietnam obtained 130,000 tonnes of coffee an increase of 25 percent compared with last year's figure and exported 128,000 tonnes earning more than USD 104 million. In Asia the Pacific, Vietnam becomes one of major coffee producers after Indonesia and India. It is expected to obtain 10,000 tonnes more in the year to come. So far this year Vietnam has exported 20,000 tonnes of tea, up by 30 percent compared with last year's figure and exported 50,000 tonnes of rubber, etc.

Chamber of Commerce Activities in 1993 Reviewed

BK0101062294 Hanoi VNA in English 0557 GMT 1 Jan 94

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan. 1—The Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) has this year diversified its activities to promote trade and foreign investment, and to support businesses in their profit-making activities in the country, said VCCI President Doan Duy Thanh in an interview with the national daily NHAN DAN recently. The vcci president said in 1993 the VCCI admitted 262 more members, including 56 associated ones who are foreign businesses having opened branches or representative offices in Vietnam, and joint ventures between Vietnam and foreign countries. It was the first time VCCI welcomed foreign businesses to join VCCI.

VCCI established relationships and signed cooperation agreements with commerce chambers and trade promotion organizations in 11 countries. It also set up seven commissions or councils specializing in bilateral cooperations with foreign countries, and promoted existing ties with some international and non-governmental organizations. Moreover, Doan Duy Thanh added, the VCCI arranged, the visits of nearly 10,000 business delegations from 52 countries to Vietnam and those of 20 delegations consisting of about 1,000 Vietnamese businessmen abroad to study foreign outlets and inquire into the possibilities for trade and investment. Six major exhibition fairs were held within the country in addition to two others abroad under the auspices of the VCCI. VCCI has provided legal and bussiness consultancy for businessmen to help them work out business deals and investment projects as well as settle disputes in external and internal relations. Sixteen professional-training courses were opened for more than 1,200 businessmen from various VCCI members. More than 40,000 sets of certificates on origin of export commodities were granted to Vietnam's businesses, helped 1,600 labels to

be registered, provided industrial protection to 27 industrial designs and 57 inventions. On VCCI's plans for 1994, Mr. Thanh said the chamber should pay more attention to membership expansion, especially to the small and medium-sized businessmen in all ecomomic sectors. A centre would be set up by VCCI to assist small and medium-sized businesses in finance, management and marketting. Eight international exhibition fairs are expected to be held in Vietnam next year complete with four or five others in Japan, Malaysia, Taiwan and South Korea, to introduce Vietnam's export goods and foreign investment-calling projects.

Radio Reviews Socioeconomic Development in 1993

BK0301075294 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 31 Dec 93

[Text] The national renovation process in Vietnam has made big progress in 1993. Many changes for the better have taken place in socio-cultural fields and the state has given priority concern to human resources. Positive developments have been seen in the field of education and training in the 1992-93 school year. In 1993, the state earmarked an appropriate budget to invest in the development of all educational branches from creches and preschool classes to general education and higher education. In addition to public schools, many private, semi-public, and people-founded schools have been set up. Besides, there are schools for handicapped children, charity classes, or family classes. In addition to existing universities, Vietnam has established open universities in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to meet the people's learning needs.

Short-term job training courses have also developed in big cities. While primary education has been universalized, proper attention has been paid to eradicating illiteracy. This is a central task to improve the people's knowledge in the open-door economy. Attention has also been paid to the training of young talents. This year, two Vietnamese teams attended international olympiad on mathematics and physics and won glorious results.

Noteworthy in 1993 cultural activities was the 10th Film Festival. This event once again affirmed the position of Vietnamese cinematography in people's lives. It is followed by the Autumn Music Festival. Traditional art also obtained good results in 1993. Vietnamese traditional art troupes and foreign art troupes have exchanged many visits this year.

National health programs have been effectively deployed, including the anti-malaria program, the expanded program on immunization, the anti-epidemics program, goiter and AIDS prevention programs. Grassroots medical networks have been improved and upgraded. Efforts are being made to provide medical service to all communes in the coming years. Health insurance has over the last (?five) years been provided to the Vietnamese people to improve the quality of medical examinations and treatment.

The Seventh Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] formulated the strategy for socioeconomic stabilization and development till the year 2000, focusing on job creation and maximum utilization of labor force. In 1993, for the first time, the National Assembly adopted a state budget of 820 billion dong to generate and rearrange jobs. In three years from 1991-93, 2.3 million people were provided with jobs. In 1993, the National Fund for Employment granted nearly 200 billion dong to 5,000 assorted projects throughout the country, invested 50 billion dong to build and equip occupational training centers and employment bureaus. The movement for eradication of hunger and alleviation of poverty and mutual help in household economy has helped to stabilize the lives of thousands of families in difficult situations.

Action has been taken to fight against prostitution, drug addiction, and other social evils. 1993 saw growth of Vietnam in the field of exports, both in quality and quantity. At the 17th SEA [Southeast Asia] Games, Vietnam bagged 34 medals of which nine were gold medals, ranking sixth in Southeast Asia. It was also a successful year for Vietnamese chess players. Dao Thien Hai won the world chess champion for the 16-age group and Nguyen Anh Dung won the world chess champion for the 20-age group. At the second international Wushu competition, Nguyen Thuy Hien, badge 14, won two medals, one gold and one silver, becoming the first Vietnamese winner in this event.

1993 closed to many successes in sociocultural fields, creating impetus for promising achievements in 1994.

Australia

Agreement With Singapore on Defense Training BK2412084693 Melbourne Radio Australia in English

0500 GMT 24 Dec 93

[Text] Australia and Singapore have signed an agreement covering the island republic's future use of the Shell Water Bay Defense Training Area in northeastern Australia. The memorandum of understanding will also allow Singapore to store training equipment and vehicles in Australian army depots. Singapore will conduct an armored exercise at Shell Water Bay next year. Talks are also continuing about future training access to Australian military rangers. The Singapore Air Force has already begun moving its flying training operations to Western Australia.

Fiji

Rabuka Appeals for Unity in New Year Message BK0201070294 Melbourne Radio Australia in English

BK0201070294 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0600 GMT 2 Jan 93

[Text] Fiji's Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has made an appeal for national unity following the burial of President Ratu Sir Penaina Ganilau. In a new year message, Mr. Rabuka said Ratu Sir Penaina had always emphasized that Fiji's multiracial population needed to live in peace and harmony. The body of Ratu Sir Penaina, who died of cancer in the United Sates hospital on 16 December, was taken back for burial to his home island of Taveuni yesterday after lying in state at government house in Suva.

Under Fiji's racially-biased 1990 constitution brought in by Mr. Rabuka's government, indigenous Fijians are guaranteed 37 of the 70 seats at parliament. Mr. Rabuka faces an election next month after parliament failed to pass his government budget in November.

Papua New Guinea

Use of Australian Helicopters as Gunships Denied BK3012133093 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 30 Dec 93

[Text] The Papua New Guinea [PNG] government says it has nothing to hide in an effort to solve the Bougain-ville crisis. State Minister for Bougainville Michael Ogio says he denies suggestions by supporters in Sydney of Bougainville secessionists that security forces were undertaking a major military buildup in preparation to retake the Panguna copper mine. Mr. Ogio has described the claim as irrelevant, misleading, and totally out of context. He said he also denied claims by the Bougain-ville Freedom Movement that Australia-supplied Iroquois helicopters were being used as gunships. Mr. Ogio says the helicopters on Bougainville are being used for humanitarian purposes and the transportation of ground staff to inaccessible areas.

Rebels Block Civilians From Care Centers

BK2312064593 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 23 Dec 93

[Text] An Australian-based spokesman for rebels on the Papua New Guinea [PNG] island of Bougainville says government forces are maintaining their positions after an earlier advance towards the copper mine at Panguna. But, the spokesman, (Moses Havini), says Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] forces are monitoring the situation closely and remain on a (?first) state of alert. The PNG government says its troops are now about five kilometers to the southwest of the mine and will assess the situation before moving into the mining area itself. Reports that hundreds of civilians from the Panguna area are moving into government care centers are said to have been denied by the rebels. The government said it wants to regain control of the Australian-owned mine by the end of the year.

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